

## **Student Success & Retention Council**

### **September 21, 2017**

The Student Success and Retention Council (SSRC) met in regular session at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2017. Provost Michael Hargis (chair) presided, and the following individuals were present: Leigh Ann DenHartog, Amber Hall, Cheryl Lyons, Tami Phillips, Hershila Lallu, Alyson McEntire, John Fincher, Thomas Bruick, Angela Webster, Julia Winden-Fey, Lindsey Shurley, Patricia Smith, Susan Sobel, Taine Duncan, and Jacob Held.

1. The SSRC minutes of the July 20, 2017 meeting were considered and approved with Lindsey Shurley and Tami Phillips abstaining.
2. J. Winden-Fey discussed the Student Success and Retention Plan feedback that has been received from the Council of Deans, Academic Council, and the Strategic Planning Committee. Some feedback included needing an introduction to the Plan, implementation, priorities, baseline numbers, a list of the Council members, and a glossary of terms used within the document. These items will be added to the Plan.

Before developing a timeline for the Plan's action items, a report needs to be completed listing the current status of each of those items. J. Winden-Fey proposed creating a Google Doc that will list each item that the Council will need the status of and assign a member to follow up on that item and report back to the Council. Once all reports are made, the Council will discuss developing a timeline for implementation and a plan for assessing the action items. Discussion followed.

3. J. Winden-Fey provided the Council with a handout listing the reasons that students have claimed as to why they are choosing to leave the university. The information in the handout is collected from the Registrar's office, Academic Advising, and Admissions. Discussion followed.
4. M. Hargis discussed the fall enrollment numbers. The university's enrollment shows that our recruitment efforts are doing what we had hoped they would do. This year, we have seen an increase in first time undergraduate students, as well as an increase in transfer students. We are still working to recover from the last two years of decreased enrollment. Growth opportunities remain in the graduate program class sizes and in the way that we recruit international students.
5. Provost's Announcements:
  - The next SSRC meeting will be Thursday, October 19, at 3:00.

## 6. Member Reports:

- L. DenHartog stated that the Academic Advising Center is targeting freshmen to encourage them to attend PAWS. She also stated that Academic Advising is using GradesFirst to capture data and help with student retention. When a faculty member lists a student as being at-risk, the student and their advisor are notified. The advisor will then reach out to the student to provide them with resources for help. Last year, there was 90% faculty participation in filling out the progress reports on their freshmen students in GradesFirst. This year, they will target freshmen and sophomore students.
- A. Hall reported that Institutional Research is still working on Productivity Funding. ADHE will provide an update on Productivity Funding at the October Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting. She will then provide an update to the Council at the November meeting.
- C. Lyons reported that the Office of Financial Aid has begun recruitment efforts in the high schools. They are also working on the 2018/2019 awards. The Financial Aid counselors are meeting with students for Student Success scholarships.
- J. Fincher stated that the Dash Grant is currently being awarded to qualifying students. The grant is a micro grant that cannot go toward university costs (tuition, books, fees, etc.), but can be used for personal emergencies. It has been advertised via handouts and emails. He asked that the Council refer any students that they think may be eligible for the grant.
- T. Phillips stated that the School of Communication has three high attrition/high failure rate courses. The School's director, John Gale, is very supportive of retention. She also stated that students need Blackboard training. She asked if others are encountering the same issues.
- L. Shurley announced that SOAR registration will open on October 1.
- H. Lallu reported that SGA had their annual retreat last weekend where they created goal committees. She stated that there are five or six international students in SGA this year and they bring a fresh perspective to the group. SGA has started live streaming their senate meetings. The first meeting has been posted on YouTube.
- J. Held stated that CTE has Excellence in Teaching in FYS courses in effect now. They are hosting Lunch and Learn sessions to recruit faculty to go through training.
- T. Duncan reported that the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs committee is focusing on accessibility issues in teaching relating to IST. She also reported that the College of Liberal Arts Diversity Committee officially began this year. They are developing a plan related to retention.
- A. McEntire stated that the Office of Assessment is consulting with departments on implementing assessment plans. They just completed the first Co-Curricular

Assessment Committee meeting. Assessment is very pleased with the new Explorance software.

- P. Smith stated that the Provost spoke at the recent Honors College welcome reception. There will be a fall retreat for freshmen Honors College students. The Honors College has also had several Professor Pizza and Pie events where the students can have pizza with their faculty members and get to know them.
- J. Fincher reported that the summer reading books are still available. He also reported that the Partners for Student Success conference will be October 4-6 in Hot Springs. This will be a good professional development opportunity.
- T. Bruick reported that there are ten peer mentors in the FYS sections. This is a great group of student leaders. They have discussed how to package content about student success and have been having 10-minute conversations in class. He will add Blackboard usage to a future conversation. To date, there have been 77 one-on-one peer coaching sessions. Also, MapWorks launched on Sunday and there has been a 50% response rate. During Welcome Week, Housing and SGA co-hosted a carnival that focused on educating students on things like sexual assault. The UCA Police Department was a big help in the event.
- A. Webster stated that Privilege is the Diversity Training topic this year. There will be an Academic Bridge Connection (ABC) session on September 28 and another regarding literacy will be held on October 2. The Amigo Fest will be on October 7 from 10:00-2:00.
- J. Winden-Fey announced that Fail Forward week will be next Monday through Friday. There is information on the Student Success website about the events. Failboards will be posted at various locations on campus. She also announced that Family Day will be Saturday, September 30, and will involve Academics and Student Services.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.