

Enrollment Management Committee Minutes

December 30, 2012

Chairperson: Frances Morris

Place: Conference Room B

Time Beginning: 3:30pm / Time Adjourning: 4:25pm

Members Present: David Barron, William Hart, Frances Morris, Adele Register

Members Absent: Sandra Gilliland, Roya Namavar, Cecilia Townsend

Call to Order: called to order at 3:30 by Frances Morris and a general agenda was agreed upon by those present.

The major goals for this organizational meeting were determined to be:

1. election of a chair
2. election of a secretary
3. review of the mission of this committee
4. consideration of prospective objectives
5. selection of initial focus area
6. preparation for next meeting

Reports & Announcements

Frances Morris provided information received from absent committee members regarding days/times available for future meetings; tentatively scheduled Tuesday afternoons to accommodate spring schedules. If this does not work for majority of members, alternate will be a Friday.

Members present considered various possible objectives for the committee, and shared examples from each of their disciplines related to student success, failure, and attrition. A common theme was an emphasis on retention, particularly that of minority students and males.

New Business

Election of Officers: Elected Chairperson = Frances Morris; Elected Co-Secretary= Adele Register, William Hart

After considering the overall mission of the Enrollment Management Committee, student retention was determined to be the initial focus area for the group. Several related factors were discussed including minority enrollment, advisement, tutoring, the writing center, and the Early Alert System.

- David Barron will provide information to all committee members at the Jan meeting regarding the use of the Early Alert system for the Spring semester.
- Frances Morris will forward the Early Alert PowerPoint for viewing prior to the next meeting.
- All members of this committee will participate in the trial Early Alert system in the Spring semester. Discussions within discipline areas will ensue.

Next Meeting

Tues., Jan. 29, 4:00pm. Adjournment: 4:20pm

Enrollment Management Committee Minutes

April 26, 2013

Chairperson: Frances Morris

Place: Conference Room B

Time Beginning: 3:30pm / Time Adjourning: 4:35pm

Members Present: David Barron, Sandra Gilliland, Frances Morris, Adele Register, Cecilia Townsend

Members Absent: William Hart, Roya Namavar

Guests Present: Dr. Mary Millikin

Call to Order: called to order at 3:30 by Frances Morris and a general agenda was agreed upon by those present.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes read and approved.

Reports & Announcements

Guest Dr. Mary Millikin, who was invited to visit with the committee regarding the persistence and graduation rates of RSU students, was introduced.

Early alert process will be implemented across campus Fall '13.

Old Business

Discussion regarding RSU current efforts towards improving student retention:

Early alert pilot program included notifications to multiple campus offices, for example, departmental advisors, who now contact the students directly.

The benefits for retention derived from student access to departmental advisors, as well as from the Writing Center, were discussed. Positive feedback was received from multiple disciplines.

Additional needs to be addressed: although problems associated with remedial needs were identified early in this process, how to best address them is acknowledged as a difficult and ongoing issue. For regular tutoring services, some departments provide tutors, and "tutor.com" was also mentioned.

New Business

Dr. Millikin presented information from the Office of Accountability and Academics about enrollment in the top 30 courses at RSU Fall '12 and Spring '13. A discussion ensued re "gateway" courses and opportunities to enhance the likeliness of success in these courses to assist in student retention, and ultimate graduation.

- Reviewing course pre-requisites and establishing higher entry levels where necessary, better advising of beginning students – especially with regard to those courses which demand a reasonable reading ability, and a balanced course schedule, were some of the possible actions suggested.

Dr. Millikin discussed the graduation rates for RSU first-time freshman, as well as for the university as a whole. She presented comparison data for the '05 and '08 cohort, and described RSU as 1.5% better than its regional peers in the state in terms of retention of 1st year students.

- More in-depth studies are in process, including individual classes, questions of diversity, and developmental issues.

Brainstorming regarding the role of "Orientation" in student success and retention, and various approaches to Orientation classes by different colleges and universities, led to a consensus that some form of this program is of significant value to all students.

- Currently an "Orientation" course is only required for certain (and very limited) majors at RSU. In order to improve retention and graduation overall, it is recommend that this course be re-evaluated and offered at some level for all degree-seeking students.

Next Meeting

To be determined at the start of the Fall '13 semester.

Adjournment: 4:35pm