

# **WVNCC**

## **Retention Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 5, 2019

2-3 p.m.

**Present:** T. Becker, P. Sharma, K. Patterson, S. Leghlid, J. Britt, K. Aulick, P. Roper, R. Spurlock, C. Hippensteel, T. Edwards, MJ McIntosh, C. Farnsworth

**Absent:** N/A

### **I. Graduation Rate: 19%**

**Retention Rate: 56%**

Data above presented to help provide general benchmark for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of retention efforts going forward; discussion of how the graduation/retention rates presented are determined and whether or not additional data is needed –

P.Sharma stated both rates are trending upward and these numbers do provide “ballpark” figures, but that she could share trend data for the last 5 years at the next meeting

Chair suggested committee find its focus by identifying current/ongoing retention/success (RS) initiatives to determine if current projects may warrant focus or if committee wants to focus on new programs/initiatives

### **II. Current Retention/Success Initiatives Identified:**

1. Meet Your Advisor/Mentor Day- new initiative beginning Sept. 20 to encourage advisor-advisee relationships and strengthen advising program (C. Hippensteel)
2. Advising Task Force – current initiative, Meta-Advisors grew out of Task Force and began this summer [‘19] (J. Britt)
3. Academic Recovery Program – burgeoning initiative w/administrative support required for students whose cum. GPA is  $\downarrow$ 2.0 (K. Aulick)
4. Academic Alert/Kudos Program – ongoing (C. Farnsworth)
5. Mental Health Task Force – new initiative, submitted recommendation to become standing committee, faculty have been identified – awaiting approval from President (K. Aulick)

6. “Open the Door Wider” Campaign – new effort to encourage customer service and employee engagement (J. Britt + R. Spurlock)
7. Emergency Assistance Fund – ongoing program, students may request up to \$500 (twice) for an emergency (resulting from “change of circumstance”) to cover unanticipated expenses that hinder academic success (R. Spurlock)
8. Student Activities – ongoing programs/activities to engage students and cultivate sense of belonging (new activities like Mobile Medical Unit, Grab’n’Go etc.) (C. Hippensteel)
9. Academic Support Centers – ongoing programs/services (J. Britt)
10. Registration Ticket – ongoing effort, adapting based on data/experience, having direct impact on student persistence (T. Becker)
11. App (+social media) – app new resource, social media ongoing (C. Farnsworth)
12. Scholarships & FA – ongoing programs/services (R. Spurlock)
13. First-Year Seminar (FYS) – ongoing program (K. Aulick)
14. NSWE – ongoing initiative, recently expanded and reimagined, record numbers of attendees (T. Becker)
15. Standardized Course Syllabi and Blackboard Templates – new initiative to establish consistency, fully implemented this semester (fall ’19) (K. Patterson)
16. Door Greeter – ongoing effort to connect and provide exceptional customer service for new and returning students (J. Britt)
17. Welcome Packets – soon-to-start effort from Marketing & PR Dept. to enhance connection to new students (R. Spurlock)

Many of the current RS programs, services, and initiatives continue to develop, grow, and improve under the auspices of departments involved, so the Committee tabled ideas for news programs, efforts, and initiatives on which to focus

### **III. Areas of Focus**

1. Instructional Strategies for Retention/Success: Professional development for instructors to develop and share “best practices” for instructional strategies and techniques proved to encourage and improve R/S

Suggested for faculty Professional Development Day November 15, 2019 (C. Hippensteel)

2. Plan to 'Work' w/Working Students: Work with local employers to encourage scheduling flexibility for employed students (built-in recruitment opportunity)

Gather data on employed students, who they are, where they work etc.

Work w/Laura Kastenbauer?

Explore opportunities to make course scheduling, instruction, design etc. more amenable to working students (S. Leghli)

3. Student Ambassador Program: Resurrect student ambassador program – students who can connect with other students peer-to-peer offer a valuable perspective

Work w/Sara Wood? Community Service for WVInvests? (J. Britt + T. Becker)

#### **IV. Next Steps/Action Items**

1. Data requests for review at October 3 meeting:
  - 5-year trend data for R/S
  - Student employment data
2. Said to share 'Work w/Working Students' plan w/L. Kastenbauer
3. Invite L. Kastenbauer to October 3 meeting to participate in discussion of plan
4. C. Hippensteel will make recommendation to Academic Affairs team regarding R/S instructional strategies development for faculty
5. T. Becker will locate information about previous Student Ambassadors Program and speak with S. Wood about possibility of resurrecting program (may invite S. Wood to next meeting based on recommendation of T. Becker)

**V. Adjournment** 2:59 p.m.

**VI. Next meeting:** Thursday, October 3 / 2-3 pm / ASC 226B