

# ***Retention Committee***

## ***Meeting Agenda***

Monday, November 19, 2018

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

Present: Pat Roper, Debbie Fitzgerald, Kristi Aulick, Joyce Britt, Pam Sharma, Jill Loveless, CJ Farnsworth

Absent: Tina Edwards, Kim Patterson, Tami Becker

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### I. Retention Strategic Plan

P. Sharma explained data included in Retention Plan, going back 5 years and commented it has remained constant; she posed the questions “What can we do to improve those numbers?”

She identified Project Graduation as needing revisit and review in terms of how it works and has worked; she asked if it could be expanded to include students who have completed 15 credit hours, identifying it as a motivational strategy...stating that degree completion progress is visible in Northern Navigator, but that many students may not be aware

She continued saying that more advising and counseling are needed, not just registration

P. Sharma also commented on semester-to-semester retention rates being nice/pretty good and suggested that data be shared with faculty, but added there is always room for improvement

She identified some courses as having a 100% retention rate and suggested those faculty members offer professional development for others

She finished by stating that the retention plan represents a comprehensive, onboarding to graduation, attack from all sides, picture including social integration, academic support, advising, etc.

Assessment is needed on the effectiveness of social integration strategies – more can be done to make activities more palatable to students so they become more involved and feel more connected

She added that elements of the retention plan come from the strategic plan

Bulleted items in the document identify the strategies to focus on and include four projects for 18-19

P. Roper inquired about success rates of courses w/100% retention rates

P. Sharma responded that there were varieties of courses in various disciplines

J. Britt had a question about info. on page 9 regarding returning students, the Triage system, and “self-service registration”

J. Loveless suggested Student Affairs consider revising the language of this initiative as included in the plan

K. Aulick agreed the language was not clear

J. Loveless stated the initiative, as written, contradicts the ‘Momentum Project’

P. Sharma identified the information as coming from the Service Center

J. Loveless commented that this wording came prior to Momentum

P. Sharma stated a decision about the ‘Triage/Registration Ticket’ initiative was needed

J. Loveless stated she believes the ticket system is working and the focus should be on advising; she added the Service Center just needs to review the ‘Momentum Project’

She also stated that new software will begin building more classes into schedule builder by default and this may help with some advising issues

P. Sharma wondered if Banner could somehow identify benchmark courses

P. Roper cited the lack of Dev. Ed math indicators in Northern Navigator as a problem area

J. Britt suggested something on Northern Navigator that clearly shows what test scores mean

J. Loveless wondered if this was a Banner issue

P. Roper stated 2+2 programs have issues with Dev. Ed math requirements

P. Sharma will look at tables in Banner; some cannot be ‘drawn from’

J. Britt agreed the math requirements can be tricky

P. Sharma stated this should be recommended as a retention strategy – finding a way to address; she added the need to work with Janet on expanding Project Graduation

P. Sharma excused herself to attend another meeting

J. Loveless spoke about the need for the EM Council and Retention Committees to own the ‘Momentum Project’

One initiative for this project is the faculty Advising Task Force that has been created

Another is the revised math curriculum

J. Loveless suggested the Retention Committee assume responsibility for planning and implementing the GPS, 30 Credits to Finish, and Meta-Majors initiatives

She stated many courses have the same 1<sup>st</sup> semester requirements, such as ENG 101 and CIT 117...so finding ways to identify these and build them in to schedule planner by default may help students stay on path and on track

K. Aulick stated that perhaps different wording and marketing be used to communicate the ‘30 credits to graduate’ platform

J. Britt commented that even if taken according to plan, adding a supplement and FYS often puts students over 15 credit hours

K. Aulick commented that many students are prepared for this

J. Loveless stated it might be worthwhile to adapt GPS sheets for part-time students and create Early Entrance pathways

J. Britt added that it can also be tricky for spring start students to stay on path

J. Loveless stated program directors need to review pathways

P. Roper commented that many classes are offered every semester

K. Aulick recounted an example from this morning

J. Loveless added that sometimes by the fourth semester, students do not have enough courses left to be full-time

K. Aulick mentioned that the reverse transfer program could be helpful in these instances

Some discussion of the status of the program followed; J. Loveless explained that the agreement, making the reverse transfer degree completion automatic, does not yet extend to all WV schools

## II. Committee Membership

C. Farnsworth asked the committee whether they thought it worthwhile to expand membership for broader representation

J. Britt inquired about student membership

C. Farnsworth stated student committee memberships were sought through SGA and added she would check with S. Wood on this matter

Some discussion of unrepresented areas took place

J. Loveless suggested an Applied Technology faculty member – D. Fitzgerald said she would see that this matter was added to the next Faculty Assembly agenda

K. Aulick suggested currently vacant positions in the Service Center be considered when filled; Career Counselor was cited as a good option

J. Loveless suggested and several agreed that R. Spurlock might be a good addition' C. Farnsworth stated she would check with R. Spurlock

C. Farnsworth inquired about the previous suggestion to make the Retention Committee a standing meeting (same day/time) semester-to-semester – faculty members agreed the first Thursday of every month from 2-3 p.m. is a good time, so it is set with the first 'fixed' meeting occurring in February 2019

At approximately 2:09 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Farnsworth