Retention Committee Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2021 – Tuesday– 1pm

Facilitated by Pat Roper

Attendees: Kristi Aulick, Tina Edwards, Purnima Sharma, Patricia Roper, Kim Patterson, Shelley DeLuca, Rita Lyons, Robin Evans, Said Leghlid, Mary Jean McIntosh, Tami Alfred

Absent: Curt Hippensteel, Dr. Loveless

Guest Speaker: Gerald Meggett

CircleIn Presentation – "All in one studying space"

Online platform for students to engage with each other.

- o Reward point system based on student interaction. Ex.) 15,000 points if a student uploads their notes from class. 30,000 points if another student bookmarks their notes.
- o Points are translated into rewards for students; gift cards, scholarships, technology, etc.
- o Students can post a question, upload notes, engage with each other on group test prep, & break off into study groups.
- o Tutors can be embedded within the platform for real time assistance.
- o CircleIn provides a monitoring system for instructors to view content.
- o Cost is $3500.00 for first semester.
    - ➢ Part of that amount is for the "support and implementation fee".
    - ➢ The rest the company will cover with NSF grant.
    - ➢ "opt in" option after the first semester.
- o WVNCC does not have to provide additional funds for student rewards such as: micro scholarships, gift cards, or technology prizes. Companies like Apple, Amazon, Target, Best Buy, Google Play, etc.

After Presentation Discussion

- o Price is reasonable.
- o Funding is available – no cost risk to the school.
- o Can use program to intervene with students who are struggling.
- o Incentives coincide with what we were hoping for initially as a reward system to stick around.
- o Gives students a sense of belonging and a platform to connect with each other.
- o Tutors can be embedded which will assist any incorrect tips or information students share with each other regarding a class.
- o Students more reluctant to share with each other.
- o Confidence boost for students who are doing well and have a desire to help their peers.

Questions

- o Is one semester enough time to show an effect on retention?
- o Would we only use the platform to target students who need help?

Discussed Strategic Objectives

- o Need 3 to 4 objectives for 1.4. (from power point slide)

    - ➢ Advising – (*needs to be a common theme in all areas*).
    - ➢ Retention
    - ➢ Completion
    - ➢ Persistence

- o Data Focus

    - ➢ First time/part time degree seeking students from Fall 2019 to Spring 2020.
    - ➢ For Retention - students who started in Fall 2019 returned in Fall 2020.
    - ➢ For Persistence – students who started in Fall 2019 returned in Spring 2020.
    - ➢ From Pam's example – First-time/ part-time students showed a decrease.

- o Action Steps

    - ➢ Review data before next meeting.
    - ➢ Go over terms so we can have a better understanding of the data.
    - ➢ Benchmark will focus on local college performance vs national.
    - ➢ Think about how can advising be a common thread in all areas?

Next Meeting Agenda

- o Follow up on presentation points of CircleIn.
- o Review and finalize strategic plan objectives.
- o Decide retention rate benchmarks.