Retention Council
Minutes
January 23, 2014
LH 200


1. Freshmen Orientation

Since the last meeting, where it was announced that orientation programs would be moved to Academic Affairs, Kim Sandlin was appointed Director of the Transition and Orientation Programs Office.

Kim provided an overview of the new orientation process for the 2014 freshmen orientation cycle. This included a discussion of online pre-advising, the decoupling of advising/registration with orientation, and early advising/registration available to high school freshmen. Kim circulated a flow-chart that depicted the orientation process. Although orientation programming will occur during late spring and throughout the summer, Kim also announced plans for continuing connections with freshmen throughout the fall semester via a transition program utilizing student transition mentors.

Future Plans

Kim briefly discussed future plans for the Transition and Orientation Office including more robust transfer and returning adult programs, as well as a new online orientation for online students. An improved international orientation program was brought-up as a need, which will also be a future focus.

2. WSU 101

Bill Vanderburgh presented the results of WSU 101 for fall 2013. Fall 2013 enrollment improved (aimed for 300, received 223, compared to 132 in fall 2012). The DFW rate
decreased from 38.8% in fall 2012 to 16.5% in fall 2013. The DF rate dropped from 31.8% to 11.7% over the same time frame. A handout was circulated summarizing the results. Bill’s office is planning for some changes for fall 2014 including an enrollment of 350, discontinuing the use of audience response technology (due to student feedback on the high cost and low value to them), and other changes outlined on a handout he circulated. The decision to discontinue the audience response system led to a discussion on how the University might consider making this technology more available without charging students (as it is known to increase student engagement). Sarah Sell circulated the proposed syllabus for fall 2014.

Bill announced the Military and Veteran Student Center has been successful in terms of use, with over 200 visits since its opening on Veteran’s Day. Bill also announced the opening of the College Money Management Center (temporarily) in Jardine Hall.

Other Business

None.