Retention Council
Minutes
October 23, 2014, LH 200


1. **WSU 101 Task Force**

Kim Sandlin, Director of Transitions and Orientation Programs, and Interim Director of Student Success, provided an overview of the Task Force’s work to date. They have met once since our last meeting. The Task force is made-up of faculty and staff across the campus. The outcomes from that meeting included:

   a. The WSU 101 concept continues to be important to the University and should continue in some form.
   b. Two formats for WSU 101 were discussed:
      i. Format for exception students only
      ii. Format for the typical FT/FT freshmen or transfer student
      iii. A faculty coordinator to supervise/teach both formats

Retention Council members provided feedback and comments including, revisiting whether the course should be required (and how), reformatting it into a freshmen seminar course taught by faculty, making the course a part of general education, and changing to a discipline specific format.

The Task Force will continue to meet and report back at future meetings with a goal of having a recommendation for faculty consideration by the end of the fall 2014 semester.

2. **Advising At-Risk Students Task Force**

Linnea GlenMaye provided an update from the advisors, who were tasked with making recommendations for this agenda item. They provided recommendations in two categories: processes that could make a difference and suggestions for change.
Processes that could make a difference for students

- Use the high-DF list proactively in an approved and supported way.
- Provide Colleges with the resources to support an intensive advising role, so advisors have the time to build relationships with students.
- Provide courses at the times and locations that students want and need. Identify and address bottlenecks. Students often choose not to wait-list because they need to leave with a full schedule of courses.
- Greater lead-time for course schedules (for an academic year, for instance) would be helpful in designing a plan of study that accommodates the student’s needs.
- International transcript and out-of-state transcript analysis is often a lengthy process, and students cannot enroll in needed courses in an efficient and timely way.

Suggestions for Changes

- Required advising every semester (but would be difficult for LAS)
- All probationary students have a registration hold.
- Produce and publish a video on probation and suspension policy and procedures. Include link to video in email sent to students who have been dismissed.
- Use information from exit survey to provide information about why students have decided to leave (academic performance, difficult courses, financial, personal issues, etc.).
- Add a field to change of major form to ask students why they are changing their major.

In terms of the next steps, Linnea will discuss with the Provost to place these recommendations on an upcoming Council of Deans agenda. She will also be in contact with the Registrar’s Office to discuss adding a field to the “change of major form” to ask students why they are changing their major, in an effort to identify student perceptions in this regard.

3. **Other Business**

   None