Retention Council
Minutes
August 27, 2015 LH 200


1. **Follow-up from last meeting**

   Rick Muma reminded members that all of the Council’s work is now centralized on the Office of Student Success’s web page, with links to retention data of all types. He also reminded members of his offer to work with units to help with assessment of their areas as it relates to retention.

2. **Student Success end of year report**

   Kim Sandlin circulated and discussed the Office of Student Success’s end of year report in an effort to demonstrate the magnitude of retention work on campus.

3. **September (special) meeting – Joe Cuseo**

   The Offices of Student Success and Academic Affairs are sponsoring a retention workshop on September 15-16, 2015 by bringing Joe Cuseo to campus. Joe is a Professor Emeritus, Psychology and Director, First-Year Seminar at Marymount College. He has directed the first-year seminar at Marymount College (CA) for more than 25 years, a course required of all new students. He is also a columnist for a bimonthly newsletter published by the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience. Joe is being brought to campus to help us re-energize our retention work. He will present on various retention topics with the Retention Council, deans, faculty, advisors, student engagement staff, and students. A full schedule will be circulated soon.
4. **Retention priorities for AY 15-16**

Provost Vizzini emphasized the importance of refocusing our retention work and its relationship to enrollment. In particular, WSU’s retention work needs to be broadened beyond the traditional student, as we are well on our way of reaching our goal of 80% by 2020 (for first-time/full-time students – 74.6%). Each unit needs to bring forward ideas on how we can affect retention for returning adults, transfer students, juniors and seniors, first generation, minority students, and so forth. Although the Office of Student Success is a major driver of retention activities, it cannot be the sole office responsible for retention. Rick Muma and Kim Sandlin will reach out to the various units to bring forward interventions to improve retention in the areas described above.

Council members felt it was important to re-evaluate business practices that may be roadblocks to student success, unfriendly student policies, and seek out feedback from students on improvement that could be made. Christine Schneikart-Luebbe shared with the group results from a follow-up meeting that occurred as a result from the President’s Town Halls about diversity. During this meeting, the group reviewed their practices in an effort to remove roadblocks for students.

5. **New retention activities in place or in the planning stages**

Kim Sandlin reviewed the following activities that will be focused on for the upcoming academic year:

- Increase in number of courses supported by Supplemental Instruction
- Intentional follow-up with first-year students on their Success Plans
- Collaboration with Faculty Senate Gen Ed Committee and Student Involvement with the development of Freshman Seminar
- Hiring of an Online Retention Specialist to work with students in online degree programs
- Coordination and utilization of the Student Success Collaborative – campaigns include:
  - High risk first-year students
  - Second-year/sophomore undecided students
  - High risk veterans
  - Students who are repeating MATH 111
- Additional campaigns we are considering include first-gen/low-income outreach from OSMM and reaching out after mid-term grades
- Drop in enrollment between sophomore and junior year
- First-generation retention program.

6. **Other business**

None