Retention Council
Minutes
September 26, 2013
LH 200


1. Retention Council Charge

Tony Vizzini reviewed the charge of the Council:

The Retention Council (made-up of faculty and staff from all University divisions) serves to monitor retention outcomes and recommends changes to increase retention and graduation rates.

2. Graduation Partnership 2012-2013 Annual Report

Rick Muma and David Wright reviewed the Graduation Partnership 2012-2013 Annual Report.1 The Graduation Partnership has been selected as the University’s HLC Quality Improvement Project (a part of WSU’s 2016-2017 reaccreditation efforts). Overall, the results indicate students are effectively participating in most measurable areas. While most of the available data are baseline in nature, this will help to establish a reference point for how the Partnership might change student behavior, the effectiveness of the Partnership, and the overall impact in future years. Although no data were available when this report was prepared (May 2013) indicating the Partnership improved retention or graduation rates, the recently reported fall 2012 (cohort) retention rate was 74.5% and the 6 year graduation rate (2007 cohort) was 46.1% (both increases). It is unknown at this time whether the Partnership influenced these rates.

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3. **Receive update on the Student Success Collaborative and Early Alert Application**

   David Wright and Linnea GlenMaye presented plans for improvement in two of the items included in the Graduation Partnership (Student Success Collaborative [a solution to replace the current at-risk report] and an early alert application that could replace GradesFirst). Both of these items are potential solutions to QI project weaknesses identified in the data as summarized in the annual report. These solutions could be more useful to advisors when working with at-risk students and subsequently increase retention and graduation rates. The Student Success Collaborative is currently being piloted with advisors in the Colleges of Fine Arts, Health Professions, and Liberal Arts and Sciences. The early alert application is in a testing phase.

4. **Receive information on the summer orientation/evaluation results**

   Due to time constraints, this agenda item was tabled until the October meeting.

5. **As may arise**

   Wade Robinson briefly discussed expanded recruitment efforts for fall 2014, which may lead to a significantly expanded freshmen class. As this materializes, efforts should be made to accommodate increases in student communication, meetings with parents and students, as well as increases in freshmen course sections. This topic will be added as an agenda item in October.