Student Success Committee Meeting

NOTES  August 26, 2013  11AM  SA 4305

ATTENDEES  Diana Balgas, Larry Bliss, Amber Machamer, Karen Mucci (on behalf of Greg Smith), Sally Murphy, Mitch Watnik, Amie Willett (on behalf of Greg Smith)

NOTE TAKER  Tamra Donnelly

GUESTS  Linda Dalton, James Houpis

DISCUSSION

Provost Houpis and VP Dalton attended the meeting to discuss the committee's anticipated goals for 2013-14. VP Dalton outlined the President's plan to call for a "stretch goal" of increasing student graduation rates to 60% for freshman and 75% for transfer students with the graduating class of 2019. The goal will be announced at Convocation in September. Dalton reiterated that these are stretch goals. The committee was asked to determine what it will take, in the upcoming year, to empower student success programs to meet these goals. It was mentioned that the first year retention rates are extremely important to achieve any improvement in 6 year graduation rates, since it is between year 1 and year 2 that shows the biggest lack of retention. Bliss mentioned that due to the Chancellor’s Office funding of the recent RFP his office and PIR would be hiring one new staff member each. He mentioned that he scaled back his request for an additional staff member to accommodate the needs of other areas of the campus. His office will participate in a webinar in September on intrusive advising, directed particularly at 5th year native students. This cohort would not affect the 2019 rates. Hopefully, the techniques could be transferred to the fall 2013 cohort to improve second year retention.

Houpis suggested piloting early advising with the Promise Neighborhood grant, to begin work with middle schools and high schools within the Jackson Triangle.

Houpis inquired about a general outline of what student success initiatives are in use and being evaluated by the committee, suggested it would be a useful resource for campus personnel to have available. Admission standards have an impact on graduation rates. The more recent classes that have been admitted have not included as many exceptions, so the rate might naturally rise.

There was a lengthy discussion of general education, including the CIC proposal to review/renew all GE course approvals on a five year rotation. Houpis inquired if there was a rubric for the course assessment; Murphy agreed that it would be a useful and necessary tool.

Bliss asked if VP Dalton's charge was to have the committee evaluate what it will take to get to the 6 year mark, and the answer was "yes". Further, the committee should evaluate what resources are needed this year to reach the mark, since the first year retention rate is so important to the overall graduation rate. There was discussion of the writing skills test and alternative methods of meeting the writing requirement.

CONCLUSIONS

The committee will determine its goals for 2013-14 with the President’s new graduation rate initiative in mind.

ACTION ITEMS  PERSON RESPONSIBLE  DEADLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION ITEMS</th>
<th>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</th>
<th>DEADLINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>