**Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 23, 2024**

1. **Call to Order**

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on January 23rd, 2024, at 11 am. in the Witter’s Conference Room in the Booth Library.

1. **Equity Outcomes for First-Year Students Fall 23**

Danny Gourley Fischer opened the meeting with the data of first-year students from the fall of 2023 and looked at them with a different lens. From admission type, first gen, sex, range of high school GPAs, and more. They noted that our students who identify as black and African American underperformed relatively to their peers. According to Danny’s data, there seems to be an equity gap in our student performance. They also proceeded to state that our Hispanic population did not do too well either. Particularly the male students. Gateway did not do well last fall. We had 56 new students, of those, 24 were dismissed because their GPA was under 1.0. 6 of those students applied and were granted reinstatement. 2 of those students did not register for classes due to outstanding balances or other holds. Danny also states that first-generation students also struggled. Danny also looked at high school GPAs and they concluded, based on the data, that students who did not perform well in high school, were less likely to end the semester above a 2.00. Danny stated that our Black, Hispanic, Male, First Gen, and Gateway students are underperforming academically. Danny mentions that Amber Webb did the data for the classes with D/F/W list. Jody Stone mentioned that when Carmen was still up, the freshman did better academically when they weren’t all together. They also mentioned by having them be together with sophomores and juniors, they can provide mentoring. Danny mentions how the lack of success with Gateway makes them question if there is something their team needs to be doing better.

1. **Edsights-Feedback from Dr. Davidson**

Danny talks about a recent incident with a student reach out to “Billy the Panther” about mental health resources. Danny spoke Dr. Eric Davidson and stated that their team, Health and Counseling Center, do not like the tool. Dr. Davidson mentions how between 911 and 988, they have pieces in place. They are brought to their attention quickly. They then needed a better assessment so they sent in housing but due to housing internal protocol they had to take it up to a level. The biggest group that would receive the biggest benefit, don’t value the program (Edsights). Dr. Davidson thinks students benefit more from their other resources then using Edsights. Jody Stone agrees with Dr. Davidson. Jody states that typically they receive alerts late at night and its somethings that’s been dealt with or a student did not like how he was responded even thought it was appropriate. Danny states that no one wants to fund it and we no longer have GEER which funded the contract with Edsights. Josh Norman does state that we might have enough funding for Edsights but Edsights needs to provide all of the additional functionalities and it would have to be a 1 year contract.

1. **Subcommittee Updates**

Child Care- Dr. Bowers has sent out email. They might have found some funding and location. They have also ben in contact with the Charleston school district and Sarah Bush.

D/F/W Rates- Dr. Cornebise said they are working on a survey and that they could not speak to much about their updates until the president’s speech.

Job Readiness- They are planning to meet soon to talk about actions.

Underrepresented Populations- Plans on doing Lunch and Learns.

1. **Summer Bridge**

Dr. Mona Davenport talks about the lack of readiness academically and transitioning to college. They looked into a possible summer bridge. They also looked around at other institutions to see what they are doing and what we can create for our incoming students. The majority of the bridge programs out there are for students of color and first gen. They are planning a pilot program this summer. They are aware of cost so they are trying to figure out solutions for it. Dr. Davenport and their team come up with a one-week program “Panther Pass”. They worked on skills and try to get them acclimated to college. They will target students who are the first ones in their families and low SES. Plans on reaching out to Alums to help out to fund this program. Dr. Davenport also updates the committee about an EIU 1111 section in the fall will be taught by John Blue and that is will strictly be for our black male students.

1. **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13th at 11 am in the Witter’s Conference Room in the Booth Library.

*~Minutes submitted by Brandy Verdin, Recording Secretary*