**Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September, 2023**

1. **Call to Order**

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on September 13th, 2023, at 2 pm. in the Witter’s Conference Room in the Booth Library.

**Members present:** Cindy Boyer, Joe Eichman (recording secretary), Shelley James, Josh Norman, Catherine Polydore, Karla Sanders, chair, Jody Stone, Ed Treadwell, and Tanya Willard

**Members absent:** Gurkan Akalin, Austin Cheney, Mona Davenport, Julie Dietz, Alexis Jones, Katie Lewandowski, Vicki Phillips, and Jie Zou.

1. **CORE Retention Reports**

Josh Norman circled 10th-day census reports to the CORE members on the retention of undergraduates and freshmen. Josh noted that our Freshman retention rate from Fall 22 to Fall 23 is 69.6%. We went from 71.2% to 69.2%. Josh states that as we become selective in our admission to the university, which makes it easy for other schools to admit the students like Carbondale, Northern, etc. A factor that can be a potential negative outcome is that there is less support. We no longer have GEER and HERF funds which leads to not insufficient funding to mitigate the financial factor. Josh proceeds to point out on the freshman report is the reported ethnicity category, Black or African American students have gone down 8.7% and the Hispanic population went down 9.1%. The white student population went up 2.9%. Josh expresses concern about the size and decline of those populations. Josh also states that Gateway has been more selective about their admission due to past reports. Josh wants to work on what the committee can do about the decline in retention. Josh will be bringing a profile comparison of this current class and the next upcoming class to the October CORE Meeting so committee members know what they are working on with regards of the percentage of low SES, First Generation, reported ethnicities, etc.

1. **Foundation Grants Update**
2. **Risk Factors and Advising**
3. **University Foundations and Retention**
4. **CORE Next Year**
5. **CORE Next Year**
6. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:05.

*~Minutes submitted Joe Eichman, Recording Secretary*