**Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 10, 2019**

1. **Call to Order**

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on April 10, 2019, at

3:00 p.m. in the Student Success Center Classroom 1115 in Ninth Street Hall.

**Members present:** Cindy Boyer, Mona Davenport, Julie Dietz, Joe Eichman (recording secretary), Alexis Jones, Katie Lewandowski, Josh Norman, Catherine Polydore, Karla Sanders, chair, Jody Stone, Ed Treadwell, and Tanya Willard

**Members absent:** Gurkan Akalin, Austin Cheney, Shelley James, Vicki Phillips, and Jie Zou.

1. **Approval of CORE Minutes- March 27, 2019**

Jody Stone motioned to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2019, meeting. Cindy Boyer offered a second. The minutes passed without objection, with Josh Norman and Ed Treadwell abstaining.

1. **Spring Newsletter**

The Spring CORE Newsletter went out to the university last week. Karla Sanders received about a half a dozen comments, so knows it is reaching an audience. She asked members to think about items for the fall newsletter.

1. **“Prairie State Wire” article**

Josh Norman, among others, received an alert that EIU was mentioned in an article in the “Prairie State Wire”, a politically-motivated newspaper published near the Quad Cities. The article in question was about the “failure rate of African-American students at Illinois universities”. He didn’t think the article would have much of an impact on EIU, but wanted to mention it. Julie Dietz pointed out how the article turned the real data upside down to make African-American students and the public universities look bad. Karla Sanders said that there are many reasons a student does not finish their studies, and “failing out”, as the article only mentioned, is the least of these. Mona Davenport told the Committee about a pilot program will begin this fall. A group of 29 males African-American students will be a cohort. She is working with Housing, Admissions, Advising, and Financial Aid to provide support for these students. They will take UF1111, ENG 2000/2001, and SOC 1838, participate in Strong MENtoring, and focus groups to monitor their success. Mona Davenport said that it will take the University as a whole to help make these students successful. She said that EIU’s minority enrollment has increased dramatically, from 9% in 2004 to 29% now, but EIU has not changed how it approaches these students yet. These new students are a new culture of student, she said. We must adapt our outreach to make them successful. We are working toward more intentional recruiting of these students as well, especially honors, high GPA students.

Mona Davenport also reported that she has been working with the science department to help minority students succeed. They have created a pilot program with CHM and BIO with mandatory meetings with professors, student mentoring, mandatory Early Alerts, along with 11 ideas to try. She said that we need to retrain these students to understand that tutoring is not a sign of a weakness on their part. She will work with HIS next. Julie Dietz mentioned that her department will have a new faculty member in the fall who did minority outreach when she was a GA. Perhaps she will continue her work as a full-time faculty member. Alexis Jones mentioned that in the Department of Education, which is predominately white, the students of color can feel alone and unsupported. Mona Davenport offered some ideas for direct outreach by the department to help these students.

1. **University Foundation Awards**

Karla Sanders took this Committee’s suggestion regarding the students who will receive $1000 awards. Financial Aid took a look at 60 student’s financial aid packages and determined 32 of them would benefit from the award. Karla Sanders also added students who took University Foundations, so therefore only had 29 hours of credit, along with the other criteria, and that brought the total up to the 40 students who will receive the award. Emails will go out to these students next week so they can schedule their meeting with Financial Aid and receive the award.

1. **First Generation Update**

The First Gen Subcommittee will meet on Monday. They are working toward a goal of having the website functional by registration time. MyEIU will include First Gen information next year, so we will be able to reach out to these students.

1. **Supplemental Instruction Update**

Cindy Boyer said that she will be expanding Supplemental Instruction next semester to include more sections of MAT1271, as well as calculus, which was Marshall Lassak’s suggestion. SI will also be provided for two sections of SOC1838 and also for CHM 1310. She acknowledged low attendance during the pilot, but is working with faculty to increase awareness of the program. Catherine Polydore mentioned that she sees students who just disappear from their classes. Karla Sanders said that is a problem and that for Gateway students, their advisors are reminding them the importance of attendance. Mona Davenport said that for these students, high absenteeism became ingrained in high school.

1. **CORE Next Year**

Karla Sanders asked Committee members to let her know if they will serve on the Committee next year. She needs to know by the next meeting, April 24. Julie Dietz mentioned that she would be curious to learn the number of resident students enrolled in online degree programs. She has heard that many athletes are being steered to online programs to free up time for practice. It was agreed that this is something the Committee should look into next year, as it could become a retention issue, especially with more online courses being offered.

1. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:48.

*~Minutes submitted Joe Eichman, Recording Secretary*