**Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 9, 2019**

1. **Call to Order**

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on October 9, 2019, at

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

**Members present:** Gurkan Akalin; Cindy Boyer; Dagni Bredesen; Mona Davenport; Joe Eichman, recording secretary; Ozlem Ersin; Shelley James; Alexis Jones; Josh Norman; Tony Oliver; Karla Sanders, Chair; Jody Stone; Justin Tierney; and Ed Treadwell.

**Members absent:** Jacquelyn Frank; Jennifer Hedges; Tanya Willard; Melody Wollan; and Jie Zou.

**Special Guest:** Heidi Larson

1. **Approval of CORE Minutes- September 25, 2019**

Dagni Bredesen moved to approve the amended minutes from the September 25 meeting. Josh Norman seconded, and the minutes were approved, with abstentions from Ed Treadwell and Cindy Boyer.

1. **Mentorship Pilot**

Mona Davenport, Josh Norman, Heidi Larson, and Karla Sanders are working on creating a pilot mentorship program that will begin in FA20. Josh Norman shared the current draft of their proposal with the Committee. Heidi Larson has been using a version of this project for the past 7 years at Mattoon High School. Through the mentorship of freshmen by upperclassmen, she has seen improved attendance, an improved graduation rate, more student involvement. A most important by-product of the program has been in the mentors developing deeper altruism, empathy, and improved support skills. The plan here at EIU is to pair incoming freshmen with JR, SR, and possibly Graduate Students to mentor them via weekly scheduled meals. Each mentor will have 3-5 students. The mentors may be RA’s, UF Peer Leaders, LEAP Mentors, or other groups not yet identified. There are approximately 140 freshmen in Lawson Hall, where this pilot will be initially implemented. If a student opts in for this pilot, they will automatically be placed in Lawson Hall. This way every freshman student in that hall will be in the program. Josh Norman said there will be a mandatory training for the mentors, but otherwise should not be too much work during the school year. Jody Stone wondered whether it will be a good idea to have Lawson RA’s be mentors, since they are also called upon to possibly discipline their residents. Norman is also looking for a way to track attendance at the lunches. Larson suggested creating a lab course that would allow for tracking attendance and would appear on the student’s schedules. Larson said that the groups at Mattoon are made to be as diverse as possible. Shelley James said that it might be meaningful to group students by major. Norman agreed, and said that ideally all the mentees will be scheduled for the same section of University Foundations. The discussion turned to the size of the pilot. He said that Lawson can be expanded to all six floors, which would allow a maximum of 180 residents. Sanders cautioned that since this is a pilot, they may wish to incorporate limits and parameters. She then said that the next step is for the group to meet with Shelley James to talk about orientation, advising, and other details. Sanders then asked if the Committee is in favor of moving forward with this pilot, which was agreed to by proclamation. Jody Stone said that he will talk to some of the current RA’s to get some of their feedback regarding the pilot. Sanders will have a discussion with the Peer Leaders at their next meeting.

1. **Newsletter**

Karla Sanders will talk about suggestions for the Newsletter at the next meeting.

1. **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be October 23. The meeting adjourned at 3:56.

*~Minutes submitted Joe Eichman, Recording Secretary*