**Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 12, 2018**

1. **Call to Order**

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on September 12, 2018 at

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

**Members present:** Gurkan Akalin, Cindy Boyer, Mona Davenport, Julie Dietz, Joe Eichman (recording secretary), Shelley James, Katie Lewandowski, Stephen Lucas, Josh Norman, Karla Sanders, chair, Jody Stone, Ed Treadwell, Tanya Willard, and Jie Zou.

**Members absent:** Austin Cheney, Jeanne Lord, and Vicki Phillips

1. **Approval of CORE Minutes-April 25, 2018**

Jody Stone motioned to approve the minutes with Julie Dietz offering a second. The minutes were approved with Cindy Boyer and Ed Treadwell abstaining.

1. **FA18 Cohort and Predictor Model**

Josh Norman said that last year more students got less aid then before due to the budget situation, which affected our retention numbers. Karla Sanders explained the Retention Risk Factors. There is a smaller percentage of students with retention variables than last year (with the exception of the Financial Need Gap). This means that EIU’s academic profile has gone up. There are also fewer undecided students this year, which is a good thing. Karla Sanders is working with Financial Aid, the University Foundations instructors, and the advisors to reach out to students who have not completed their Financial Aid paperwork. Jody Stone talked about the effects of the retention rate on Housing and Dining. EIU has the lowest cost of attendance in IL and this information will be going into promotional materials. This retention data shows how at-risk last year’s cohort was, but bodes well going forward.

1. **FA17-FA18 Retention Data**

Though not the official rate (which will be released by Institutional Planning), Karla Sanders’ data show a retention rate of 70.3%, down from 74% last year.

Josh Norman announced the new AIM High Grant Funding and the 3 new initiatives EIU is launching, all aimed at helping reduce the financial burden on our students. We will be the first school to market these new scholarships.

Mona Davenport noted that she has noticed an uptick in the hand-holding and time the new cohort is requiring to be successful. She said that the University will need to try new approaches to meet the needs and retain these students from year to year. She suggested the committee come up with recommendations for retention to present across campus.

Julie Dietz noted that financial concerns become the greatest retention factor after the freshman year.

Stephen Lucas suggested a survey or focus group with students who have, or are about to graduate, but who met many of the retention factors. The goal would be to ask them what, exactly, helped them overcome the odds and stay to graduate. Karla Sanders put this on the committee priorities for the year.

1. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

*~Minutes submitted Joe Eichman, Recording Secretary*