**Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 25, 2019**

1. **Call to Order**

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on September 11, 2019, at

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

**Members present:** Gurkan Akalin; Dagni Bredesen; Joe Eichman, recording secretary; Jacquelyn Frank; Jennifer Hedges; Shelley James; Alexis Jones; Josh Norman; Jody Stone; Justin Tierney; Ed Treadwell; Tanya Willard; Melody Wollan; and Jie Zou.

**Members absent:** Cindy Boyer; Mona Davenport; and Karla Sanders, Chair.

1. **Approval of CORE Minutes- September 11, 2019**

Jody Stone moved to approve the amended minutes from the September 11 meeting. Josh Norman seconded, and the minutes were approved, with no abstentions.

1. **CORE’s Mission**

Dagni Bredesen asked what CORE’s mission was, and Josh Norman read the mission statement to the Committee. He suggested that it would be a good idea to read the mission statement at the first meeting every year. He then talked about some of the Committee’s accomplishments, such as Early Alert, Retention Scholarships, and the Retention Predictor Model.

1. **The Exit Survey**

Since the predictive model does not get at anything beyond the data available in Banner, there is a desire to try and get at more qualitative data on retention. Tanya Willard said that New Student and Family Programs has been talking quite a lot about retention lately, and decided to have one of the GA’s, Doug Michaels, work to create am exit survey for students who leave the University to tap into some of the reasons students leave. Willard is seeking input from the Committee on the survey. Josh Norman said the survey in this data will be quite useful and provide a solid set of data to compare to the College Choice Survey. Melody Wollan suggested the survey be kept short, to 8-10 questions. The possibility of incentives to improve participation was raised by Josh Norman. Gurkan Akalin suggested that students not be asked questions like, how satisfied were you? He also suggested the questions be more open-ended. Shelley Williams said that in open-ended questions, we might learn even more than what we initially ask. Melody Wollan said that she has found that students often answer only the first two questions, so suggested randomizing the survey questions. Jody Stone said that Housing asks every student who leaves the Residence Halls during the semester to fill out a survey. Financial, mental health, and just missing home are the three most common reasons students report as the reason for leaving, he said. Stone said he will share the results with the Committee via email. Tanya Willard said this will be Doug Michael’s big project for the year.

1. **Newsletter**

Tanya Willard asked Joe Eichman, Recording Secretary to the agenda item for the *Retention Matters* newsletter. Eichman said that Karla Sanders would like to know of any ongoing retention efforts in the Committee members’ departments.

1. **Mentorship**

Josh Norman, Jay Gatrell, and Mona Davenport have been working on a mentorship pilot. It will likely be integrated into living in Lawson Hall, which currently has the lowest retention rate among all the halls. The pilot will be for all incoming residents, who will be paired up with an upperclassman to mentor the freshmen. Details are being worked out by the committee, and Norman will report back when the details have been finalized.

1. **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be October 9. The meeting adjourned at 3:40.

*~Minutes submitted Joe Eichman, Recording Secretary*