**Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 27, 2017**

1. **Call to Order “The Year of Student Success”**

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on September 27, 2017 at

3:05 p.m. in the Student Success Center Classroom 1115 in Ninth Street Hall. New member Jie Zou was introduced to the Committee.

**Members present:** Karla Sanders, chair, Gurkan Akalin, Cindy Boyer, Joe Eichman (recording secretary), Echarial Gaines, Jeanne Lord, Jody Stone, Jean Wolski, Dawn Zachow, and Jie Zou.

**Members absent:** Kelsey Cripe, Mona Davenport, Julie Dietz, Shelley James, Stephen King, and Josh Norman.

1. **Approval of CORE Minutes-September 13**

The September 13 minutes were amended to correct a few typos. Boyer moved to approve amended minutes. Akalin seconded. Motion passed.

1. **NSSE Topical Module**

Sanders brought breakdowns of some of the individual questions presented to FR and SR and their answers. EIU is roughly on par with our peer institutions. Confirms what we knew.

27% of FR seriously considered leaving EIU (compared to 31% for Midwest Publics). We lost 26% of FR last year. Stone said he wishes we knew who came here intending to transfer (they took their Gen Eds here and transferred to a more expensive institution).

Of those who considered leaving, 48% listed personal reasons (a large range of reasons)

43% cited Financial Concerns

21% Relations with other students

16% Academics (too hard, or their desired course not available)

In general, our FR students are fairly happy. But money is a major retention problem.

Stone asked how we can make a stronger personal impact helping students improve their connection to EIU earlier in the semester? Sanders said we can talk about what we can do. Akalin said faculty can do more to reach out earlier to students, to make some accommodations. Zachow mentioned that Transfer & Commuter students seem to lack communication regarding events on campus. Hopefully Panther Life app will help. Sanders said she would like Weekly Events easier to find – Zachow suggested a scrolling ticker on our website, Gaines said that all students receive a Campus Events weekly email, but that not all events are on the calendar. How can we pull in all events – Doudna, Athletics, etc?

Senior respondents focused on graduate and post graduate expectations. 31% go on to Grad School vs 23% at our peers.

1. **Retention Predictor**

Copies of the Prediction Model to help illuminate the predictor. We will use this model for 2016, 2017, and 2018. New one for 2019.

The need gap in 2011 was $9000. Now is $7000 – more students in need now.

Sanders has asked Financial Aid for a list of students still in need of verification.

Gaines said that New Student Programs gave Budget Worksheets to Families to get an estimate of costs and contribution ability during Orientation Week.

Top 3 predictors of leaving are all Financial. The NSSE data reflects this.

The Academic Index – lower GPA/ACT equals more risk for students. HS GPA of 2.9 or lower much higher at-risk.

Admit month – the later the admit = less retention. (2nd choice, indecision.) Especially in April. Stone notes frustration with Scholarship Finder. Sanders said that the position is currently open. Hopefully will be filled with new hire in Fin Aid.

1. **Next meeting – We will talk more specifically about comparing this year’s class to last year’s FR class.**
2. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

*~Minutes submitted Joe Eichman, Recording Secretary*