**Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 14, 2018**

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

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on February 14, 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, Stephen King, Jeanne Lord, Josh Norman, Karla Sanders, chair, Tanya Willard, Jody Stone, and Dawn Zachow.

**Members absent:** Kelsey Cripe, Jean Wolski, and Jie Zou.

1. **Approval of CORE Minutes-January 24, 2018**

Mona Davenport moved to approve the January 24 minutes. Shelley James seconded the motion, which was then approved with Stephen King and Cindy Boyer abstaining.

1. **Minority & First Generation Success**

Mona Davenport gave a presentation on the Office of Minority Affairs’ work on minority and first generation recruitment and retention efforts. The office partners with Urban Prep Academies in Chicago, along with other universities, to give students a college visit on the first day of their senior year. When these students apply, 2/3 are Standard Admits. The department maintains contact with these students in their senior year of high school and then as they are EIU students. The Office of Minority Affairs also works with Alumni Relations, especially the Black Student Reunion for scholarship funding as well as recruiting efforts. Mona Davenport created the Access Granted program. This is an annual event that takes place around President’s Day weekend. This year, 68 students were expected, from not only the Chicago and St. Louis areas, but also cities downstate like Springfield, Decatur, and more. Research has shown that a good indicator of students deciding on a school are based on campus visits. This program has good success rates, and has become a retention program for students who do attend EIU, with higher graduation rates than students who do not attend the program. Due to cost restrictions, this program is at its maximum. The Office of Minority Affairs also holds an annual Minority Leadership Camp in the summer for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors. We are starting to see more of these attendees coming to EIU. There are other programs offered by the Office of Minority Affairs that help with both recruitment and retention. These programs include the Minority Faculty & Staff Reception, S.T.R.O.N.G. MENtoring, Minority Newsletters, and partnerships with charter school alumni.

1. **Merit Scholarships**

Admissions will be rolling out soon a one-stop shop for scholarship applications.

1. **Student Success Task Force Update**

Karla Sanders will share this information to President’s Council.

1. **SP18 Core Newsletter**

The information about Access Granted will be included in the SP18 newsletter. Karla Sanders asked committee members to bring any more ideas for the newsletter to the next meeting.

1. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

*~Minutes submitted Joe Eichman, Recording Secretary*