**Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 22, 2020**

1. **Call to Order**

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on November 13, 2019, at

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

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

**Members absent:** Gurkan Akalin; Cindy Boyer; Mona Davenport.

1. **Approval of CORE Minutes- November 13, 2019**

Ed Treadwell asked for a clarification in the November 13, 2019, minutes. Dagni Bredesen moved to accept the amended minutes and Jacquelyn Frank offered a second. The amended minutes were approved, with abstentions from Tanya Willard, Melody Wollan, and Josh Noman.

1. **Subcommittee Reports**
   1. Freshman Connection – Josh Norman updated the Committee on the progress that has been made. The website is up at <eiu.edu/freshconnect/>. 30 mentors have already applied. Mentors will include sophomores, as students said in the survey that graduate students can seem intimidating but sophomores are more relatable. Dr. Larson will conduct interviews.
   2. First Generation – Karla Sanders has a list of items to be put on the website. She will also create a shared folder on OneDrive so members of the subcommittee can share documents. They are planning for First Generation Celebration week which will be the beginning of November. She will also talk to the library to see about creating an exhibit for First Generation students.
   3. Semester Start – This subcommittee has not had a chance to meet. The impact of not retaining these students looks greater than Fall starts because the numbers are smaller. Most Summer starts are online-only students or student-athletes. The athletes receive support from their coaches and teams, but online students are generally left to fend for themselves. Over 75% of spring starts are transfers. This spring there were about 100 new students. 25 were new freshman. These students have difficulty learning our systems such as D2L. Justin Tierney did mention that CDS and EDU both encourage spring starts, as it’s built into their programming. Jacquelyn Frank asked if there is a good way for online students to receive support in their classes.
2. **Miscellaneous Impediments to Retention**

Norman said that 109 students had B1 holds who are no longer at the University. He asked if we could take a look at the four weeks prior to the semester start to see if progress can be made on these holds. President Glassman is now enforcing the $1000 threshold before a B1 hold is placed. Norman asked if a subcommittee could be formed to help these students. He has already scheduled a meeting between Advising, Financial Aid, and Student Accounts to find ways to work together on these students’ behalf. Norman is hiring an online and re-entry coordinator who will help online-only students and reach out to students who have left but not completed.

1. **Spring Newsletter**

Sanders will include national first generation student information, Universal Design, FA – SP retention data, and the Freshman Connection program in the Spring Newsletter, which will be published by early March.

1. **Retention Scholarship**

Norman has not heard whether the donors plan on giving to this scholarship again, but the President will go to the Alumni Board to ask, especially in the light of the 90% retention rate from last year.

1. **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be February 12, 2020. The meeting adjourned at 3:53.

*~Minutes submitted Joe Eichman, Recording Secretary*