**Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 28, 2018**

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

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on March 28, 2018 at

3:03 p.m. in the Student Success Center Classroom 1115 in Ninth Street Hall.

**Members present:** Cindy Boyer, Kelsey Cripe, Joe Eichman (recording secretary), Shelley James, Jeanne Lord, Karla Sanders, chair, Jody Stone, and Dawn Zachow.

**Members absent:** Gurkan Akalin, Julie Dietz, Mona Davenport, Stephen King, Josh Norman, Tanya Willard, Jean Wolski, and Jie Zou.

1. **Approval of CORE Minutes-February 28, 2018**

Cindy Boyer pointed out a mistake in the February 28 minutes. Jody Stone moved to approve the corrected minutes, and Shelley James seconded that motion. The minutes were approved with the correction, with Cindy Boyer abstaining.

1. **Student Success Task Force Update**

The Provost’s task force has finished meeting and has broken up into committees in place of the larger task force. Karla Sanders’ committee on Supplemental Instruction & Tutoring will first meet this Friday, March 30. The Advising Committee will conduct an annual evaluation for students on advising processes. The Advising Committee will work with Faculty Development to get feedback regarding training for faculty regarding advising. They also plan on making sure there are sufficient online resources for faculty on the Faculty Development webpage. There are no other updates from the other committees.

1. **SP18 CORE Newsletter Update**

Karla Sanders passed around copies of the newsletter, as it currently stands as a work-in-progress. She is waiting for the remaining articles and information to come in, and hopes to finish it by this Friday, March 30.

1. **FA17-SP18 Retention Data**

Karla Sanders has been working on compiling the FA17-SP18 retention data. The total of 675 FA17 Freshmen includes those students who started in either SU17 or FA17. Not counting summer starts, there are 635 FA17 freshmen. Although the overall retention rate of 86.22% is good, Karla Sanders said normally we like to see it sitting around 88% or higher at this time. The biggest retention variable is once again the Need Gap of $7000 or more – of the students in that variable, we lost after their first semester, 53% just could not afford college. The second largest indicator is the % Need Met 60% or Less, which saw a 35% dropout rate. Students who attended Chicago Public Schools had a 68% retention rate. Many times these students have multiple variables – especially Academic Index and Affordability. Karla Sanders will do more research here.

While it is more common to see students leave during the semester, if their main issue is with their major, there are a few things to note. Both Political Science and Art tend to attract more minority and lower-income students. Although Chemistry has the lowest retention rate of 75%, that was due to a loss of 2 students out of 8 incoming students in the fall.

EUI has already lost 30% of its special admits (Restricted Admission or Gateway), which is about twice the rate of regularly admitted students.

We have lost some ground in our retention efforts of First-Generation students. For those students who have an ACT score below 20, just over 20% were not retained in Spring. The higher a student’s ACT score, the more likely they are to be retained. Hopefully the changes to the merit scholarship program will help improve this statistic. Students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher were retained at a rate of 16% higher than those with less than a 2.9 GPA.

Female students had lower retention rates than their male counterparts this year. This is something we haven’t seen before, and Karla Sanders hopes to dig a little deeper to find out more information.

Jody Stone commented on the Residency Retention data. He noted that both Lawson and Pemberton had the lowest retention rates, and both are female-only. He also noted that Lawson Hall has the highest percentage of non-Caucasian students. He said our biggest reason for concern should be about retaining female African-American students, as they showed the lowest retention rates. Jody Stone also noted that adding LIFE/Financial Literacy opportunities in the Fall would be very beneficial for these students.

1. **Membership & Meetings**

Two members will be leaving: Stephen King and Kelsey Cripe. Karla Sanders asked members to think about who may be asked to join CORE next year.

The committee agreed to keep meeting at 3:00 on Wednesdays next year.

1. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

*~Minutes submitted Joe Eichman, Recording Secretary*