**Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 25, 2017**

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

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on October 25, 2017 at

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

**Members present:** Karla Sanders, chair, Cindy Boyer, Kelsey Cripe, Julie Dietz, Joe Eichman (recording secretary), Echarial Gaines, Shelley James, Jeanne Lord, Jean Wolski, Dawn Zachow, and Jie Zou.

**Members absent:** Gurkan Akalin, Mona Davenport, Stephen King, Jeanne Lord, Jody Stone, and Josh Norman.

1. **Approval of CORE Minutes-September 27**

Jean Wolski moved to approve the September 27 minutes. Dawn Zachow seconded the motion, which was then approved with two abstentions.

1. **FA16 – FA17 Retention Data**

Karla Sanders presented the FA17 Retention Data to the Committee. She included several handouts breaking down the retention numbers. FA17’s average retention rate of the FA16 freshmen class is 73.87%. This number includes students who started in the Summer session. The official number from the Office of Institutional Planning and Research does not count Summer-starting students and is 74.3%.

There are five trouble areas:

1. Need Gap $7000 or more: 64.89% retention rate.
2. Financial Aid Verification: 61%
3. Academic Index (HS ACT & GPA): 70%
4. HS GPA <2.9: 63%

Breakdown by majors. PHI is at 0 because they added no new majors. THA increased to 75%. Math only lost one major. SOC dropped – not sure why. This does not mean students kept the same major as last year, but it does indicate they stayed at EIU.

Gateway students at 56% retention rate; about what we’ve seen in past years.

The largest predictors are Financial Issues. 57% - 17% below our average retention rate. Our first-generation college student rate is slipping – about 41% of FR class are first-generation students, but we lost an additional 8%.

Students admitted with less than a 20 on the ACT had a big drop to 62%.

Students in the Honors Program have a 93.5% retention rate. Not all students with an ACT >26 enroll in the Honors Program.

We have good retention of Commuter students, as well as freshmen entering with some college credit.

The data show that GPA is important. Students who had a decent ACT, but low GPA only retained at 13.79%.

In breakdown of retention by residence halls, the data show a higher rate in the South Quad – where most freshmen are housed. Thomas Hall hosts the Honors cohort. Ford has more sophomores and juniors, and Kelsey Cripe was surprised by the lower retention rate for FR here. McKinney houses soccer, and Lincoln and Douglas house many student athletes, all with study tables and other academic support. These efforts seem to be working. On-campus students are retained at a 3% higher rate than those who live off-campus.

Sanders asked, based on all this data, what should this Committee’s focus be this year? Cindy Boyer suggested we get more money to students (scholarships). Karla Sanders said there just isn’t any. Echarial Gaines suggested seminars for First-Generation students, something like a Life Coach Program she encountered at University of Florida. She will send out links to their program. Boyer said that students admitted with <2.5 GPA should somehow get into the Student Success Center. If she had another GA, she would be able to accommodate all of these students. Gaines asked if we could put all these students in a mandatory University Foundations course. Sanders said this was not possible, but we could add a requirement to take a UF course if a student is below a certain GPA, <2.5 for example. Sanders will have her GA, Kirsten, look up more ideas regarding new programming for First Generation students.

1. **Early Alerts**

Are faculty documenting/issuing Early Alerts?

Julie Dietz mentioned that many faculty are frustrated by the Early Alert System, especially since Athletics and Gateway have their own processes, which require faculty to do the same work up to three times. She said it would be great if the systems were centralized or synchronized.

Is it possible to have the Early Alert System go to Athletics and Gateway automatically?

1. **Next meeting – We will continue these discussions as well as discuss the High Risk Class Report.**
2. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

*~Minutes submitted Joe Eichman, Recording Secretary*