

University Retention Committee Meeting January 17, 2007 - Minutes

Attending: Aaron Andersen, Rachel Brighton, Noelle Call (chair), Amy Crosbie, Krystin Deschamps, Christie Fox, Fawn Groves, Lisa Hancock, Peg Hennon, Wendy Holliday, Mary Leavitt, Keri Mecham, Deborah Reece (for Susan Haddock), Carol Rosenthal, Nate Sanders, Robert Schmidt, Marcy Skinner, Gary Straquadine, Patricia Stevens, Joe VanderMerwe, Craig Whyte (for Jenn Putnam)

Excused: Peggy Buttars, Steve Hanks, Susan Haddock, Shannon Jolley, Joyce Kinkead, Whitney Milligan, Jenn Putnam

1. All present introduced themselves to the rest of the committee.

2. **Mission Statement Approval-** Noelle handed out a copy of the most updated version of the mission statement and requested that suggestions or concerns be emailed to her.

3. **Joe VanderMerwe – Financial Impact of Increased Retention-** Joe presented charts reflecting the effect of retained students on the campus's financial status. It is very clear that it is more cost effective to retain students than recruit students. Every retained student makes a significant financial impact. It was discussed that the legislature does not give the university money for enrollment related upperclassman; ex. the university does not get extra funding for having x number of sophomores and juniors. Tuition is the only revenue the university gets on top of the base amount received every year. (The charts will be emailed to everyone on the committee.)

4. **Second Year Initiatives-** Carol Rosenthal, Marci Skinner, and Wendy Holiday quickly reviewed their department's second year initiatives. Noelle has asked that each department take time document their second year initiatives and email them to her. These are being compiled into a Second Year Initiative document and will be placed on the retention website.

ASUSU has created a Sophomore Scholarship. Applications are due March 1st. The committee looks at a students' USU GPA and individual needs. Students need to be full-time, have a 3.5 GPA, have taken 24-45 USU credits, and be in their 3rd or 4th semester on campus. More information and applications can be found in the ASUSU office or online on the ASUSU website. This is a new scholarship in addition to the Hansen Retention Scholarship to give second year students financial assistance.

The Women's Center also has scholarships available to returning students. Please inquire in their office TSC 315.

5. **University wide Retention symposium update-** The tentative date is September 27, 2006. The committee hopes that the early semester date will encourage faculty and staff to implement retention strategies during fall semester. An outside keynote speaker is planned, with break-out sessions that highlight successful USU retention efforts. If there are any ideas regarding the symposium please email Noelle.

Reminder: The state-wide Retention Meeting is March 8, 2007 at UVSC

6. Enrollment update – Craig Whyte- Generally the recruitment cycle starts in August and ends in May. USU recruits heavily from September to November. As of January 12, 2007 these are the numbers from the admissions office:

Applications – 3381 (up from 2716 last year) difference is 665

Admission – 2276 (up from 1201 last year) difference is 1075

The admissions office is still working on admitting students. Scholarship applications are due February 1.

This year 10,400 students were met with face to face, 53,000 were met on campus, 17,000 were connected with via telecounseling, 435,000 documents have been sent out not including scholarship information. The office has been busy and has done a great job and they would like to thank all of those who have helped with the success.

7. Early Alert Task Force created – The Early Alert Task Force has been created and their first meeting will be next week. The goal of the committee is to find out what the university already has available to students who are struggling early in the semester and find out what can be improved. Early alert means before midterm. The students who are struggling before midterm need to get some help before they get in to deep and that is what this committee is hoping to improve on campus. More information will come as the committee meets.

8. Common Literature Experience Finalists -

Complications by Atul Gawande

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (also available will be Persepolis 2)

Freakonomics by Levitt and Dubner

The committee will be meeting in early February to decide on a finalist so it has been asked that all comments on the books be received by Noelle by February 3rd or 4th.

9. Other Items – Noelle asked that if anybody knew of any faculty that would be good for Connections to email her the names so she can contact them.

Rachel Brighton mentioned that they are working on a grant for \$30,000 to work on preventing abuse on campus.

Robert Schmidt mentioned that the Advanced Program has put together a group of actors to act out different situations and issues involved with faculty and that if there were any questions about it to contact him.

***He was talking really fast so I think you are going to need to change this one and correct it. I didn't catch everything he said about it.**

10. Next Meeting – 1:30 – February 21

2006-2007 Meeting Dates

March 21

April 18

May 16