End of Year Report  
Student Recruitment and Retention Committee  
Fall 2008 - Spring 2009  
May 20, 2009

The report below was submitted to the Faculty Senate. It summarizes the work of the committee for the 2008-09 academic year. The faculty Senate supported the appointment of a full-time persistence coordinator, however, the amended role of the SRRC committee is a by-laws change and could not be voted on at this time.

Student Recruitment and Retention Committee  
Report to Faculty Senate  
April 16, 2009

Persistence Survey Report and Recommendations

Since Fall 2007 the Student Recruitment and Retention Committee has focused on persistence as its central issue, reading and discussing numerous campus, IU and national studies and reports. The SRRC now presents to the Faculty Senate recommendations that we believe will significantly contribute to improved persistence and graduation rates at IU Southeast.

This semester the committee conducted a survey to gather data on persistence activities across campus. The Persistence Survey was distributed to all academic units and departments at IU Southeast in an attempt to gain a campus-wide perspective of existing persistence efforts and initiatives. Departments/Units were asked to provide information on activities that are specifically directed toward promoting student persistence to graduation. The committee received fifty (50) responses from seventeen (17) departments/units within the University.

The survey asked a series of questions including description of initiatives, funding, training, length of involvement, data collection, target audience, constraints that negatively impact persistence, and ideas that might contribute to student persistence. Due to the wide range of responses and the amount of data gathered, the committee is sharing the most significant aspects of the report (attached): persistence initiatives, factors that are perceived to negatively impact student persistence, and new ideas that contribute to persistence. The detailed report can be obtained by contacting your SRRC representative or the SRRC chair.

The culmination of the SRRC’s efforts has revealed several important findings:

- Coordination of persistence is complex, multifaceted and requires focused attention.
- Persistence and graduation data is being gathered by multiple units (i.e. OIRA, Registrar, Admissions and IU), however, the significance of this data individually and collectively is not being captured and used.
• Though the committee has put forth significant effort, the needs of the campus in this area require much more attention than the committee is charged with and can address.

• IU Southeast is on the right track, having implemented many of the “Best Practices for Improving Student Retention”.

• Improvement is needed in the following areas:
  o A faculty and staff understanding that persistence is a campus-wide responsibility.
  o Evidence that persistence to graduation data are collected, analyzed, shared and acted upon regularly.
  o Coordination of persistence efforts by an individual or office charged with that responsibility.

• Strategic directions issued by the Indiana Commission on Higher Education and Indiana University’s Degrees of Excellence initiative are driving forces for improving persistence and graduation numbers.

• The SRRC supports high quality academic achievement and does not endorse lowered academic standards as a means to increase student persistence.

The Student Recruitment and Retention Committee is requesting that the Faculty Senate approve the following recommendations:

1. **IU Southeast appoints a full-time persistence coordinator. The role of the coordinator would be to:**
   a. Develop and implement an integrated undergraduate persistence plan that is based on established best practices and includes academic and co-curricular components.
   b. Work with the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment to develop and implement a comprehensive persistence assessment plan that integrates quantitative and qualitative data from all campus constituencies.
   c. Establish strong working relationships with other IU campus persistence offices and represent IU Southeast on university persistence committee and projects.
   d. Assess the role of current policies and practices as they relate to attrition and persistence.
   e. Identify target outcomes and annually report student persistence data to the campus.
   f. Identify and pursue grant opportunities to assist with student persistence efforts.
   g. Analyze and coordinate data from student surveys and campus units (OIRA, registrar, admissions, IU, etc.) relating to persistence and graduation. Make recommendations based on the analysis as appropriate.
   h. Serve as a resource to faculty and staff on issues related to persistence.
   i. Lead campus-wide collaborative efforts to have academic and administrative offices work together to support student persistence goals.
   j. Serve as a member of the Enrollment Management Committee.
k. Participate in relevant professional organizations and professional development opportunities to maintain a high level of expertise about current trends and best practices related to student success.

l. Monitor/maintain persistence and graduation statistics as required by the Indiana Commission on Higher Education

m. Evaluate persistence programs and results and communicate to university administration, faculty, students and parents.

n. Track effectiveness of persistence initiatives campus-wide, specifically those funded by the Degrees of Excellence Initiative.

o. Report to Academic Affairs

p. Serve as an Ex-Officio member of the SRRC

2. Amend the Student Recruitment and Retention Committee charge to include:
   a. Serving as an advisory group for the persistence coordinator
   b. Receiving periodic updates on persistence activities
   c. Providing periodic reports to the Faculty Senate

Submitted by: Student Recruitment and Retention Committee
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Attachments:
Student Persistence Initiatives
Student Persistence Impacts
Student Persistence Ideas
Best Practices for Improving Student Retention