

## **Core Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: August 14, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM

### **1. Welcome and Announcements**

- Amber invited members to visit the newly renovated Academic Support Center (ASC) after graduate training next Thursday around 4:00 PM.
- ASC now supports both undergraduate and graduate students.

### **2. Retention Symposium**

- Scheduled for August 24 (afternoon); location TBD.
- Speakers include Jody, John, Josh, Holly, and others.
- Focus: Retention strategies and initiatives across campus.
- Draft agenda is in circulation; positive feedback and engagement from Deans and Chairs.

### **3. Navigate Project Update**

- Leadership team being finalized (includes Enrollment Management, Student Success Center, Student Affairs).
- Test data being prepared by ITS; to be sent to EAB for validation.
- Implementation teams forming across campus (e.g., Dean of Students, Career Services).
- Microsoft Teams will be used for communication and documentation.

- Members interested in joining the Navigate Team should contact Michael.

#### **4. Retention Data Overview**

- First-Year Retention: Currently at 66.6%, a slight increase from earlier in the week.
- Key Trends:
  - CHS retention is up; Lumpkin and undeclared students show significant declines.
  - Small program sizes may skew percentage changes.
- Undergraduate Retention:
  - More stable overall; College of Education shows improvement.
  - Concerns remain about first-year trends impacting future data.

#### **5. Demographic Insights**

- White vs. Non-White Students:
  - First-year retention is lower among students of color.
  - Overall undergraduate retention is relatively stable across racial groups.
- Financial Barriers:
  - Many students cite affordability as a reason for not returning.
  - Non-Pell eligible students show lower retention, indicating a gap in support for middle-income students.
  - Students are opting for community colleges or taking gap years to save money.

## **6. Student Outreach**

- Staff have been calling and texting students with low balances to encourage re-enrollment.
- Common themes: financial hardship, desire to work, lack of perceived opportunity, and transfer plans.
- Positive feedback about EIU staff and support, even from students choosing to leave.

## **7. Gateway and PAC Student Concerns**

- Concerns raised about retention and support for Gateway students.
- Discussion on the need for:
  - Better understanding of students' high school backgrounds.
  - Policy changes to mandate support services.
  - Clear academic standing for conditionally admitted students.
- Gateway cohort size is increasing; new collaborative admission review process being developed.

## **8. Online vs. In-Person Learning**

- Concerns about first-year students taking online classes while living on campus.
- Suggestions:
  - Limit online courses for first-year students.
  - Explore retention differences by course modality.
  - Encourage face-to-face engagement with faculty.

- Departments face challenges balancing course delivery with enrollment and budget constraints.

## **9. Action Items**

- Bylaws Vote: Members to vote via email by August 20 at 4:00 PM.
- ASC Visit: Open invitation to visit the Academic Support Center next Thursday.
- Data Deep Dive Requests:
  - Retention by semester (Fall 2024 vs. Spring 2025).
  - Retention by course delivery mode (online, hybrid, in-person).

## **10. Adjournment**

- Meeting concluded with encouragement for a strong start to the semester.
- Amber emphasized the importance of student presence and engagement on campus.