

Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)
Meeting Minutes
September 11th, 2025

I. Call to Order

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on September 11th, 2025, at 9 am. in the Witter's Conference Room in the Booth Library.

II. Attendance:

Tanya Willard, Amy Odwarka, Amber Webb, Vicki Phillips, Julie Dietz, Cassondra Strawser, Justin Tierney, Chris Mitchell, Angela Jacobs, Crystal Brown, Jessie Shuemaker, Bobbi Kingery, Danny Gourley Fischer

III. Chair Selection

Current Co-chairs will remain in this position through the year. In the spring, there will be a new slate elected for the fall.

IV. Review of Retention Data

Reviewed updated retention report prepared with highlighted trends.

- Undeclared students: -8% retention rate; flagged as high-risk group.
- Athletes: -8.5%, Impact from transfer portal.
- Business & Technology: -7.5, Large drop noted; discussion about internal transfers vs. leaving.
- Non-Pell students: -4.7%, Struggles with funding; scholarship redistribution discussed.
- Demographic shifts: Black/African American and White student numbers are both down.
 - Black/African American: -3.9%
 - White: -3.3%
- Suggestion made to track and compile data of students registered for EIU 1111.
- P.A.C.K: -1.2%
- Overall, Freshman Retention: 68.1% (-3.2% from FA24)

V. Identifying Workgroups

- Amber Webb proposed Panthers Persist model: Modeled after the University of Oklahoma "Coaching to Complete" which is an academic life coaching.
- Proposal to create a similar multi-tiered "Panthers Persist" model and have it housed in the Academic Support Center.
- Focus on holistic student support like career services, volunteerism, and overall wraparound support.
- Tentative workgroups:
 - **Panther Persist** - proposed by Amber Webb
 - Bobbi Kingery
 - Amber Webb
 - Dr. Julie Dietz
 - Crystal Brown

- Dr. Chris Mitchell
- Dr. Cassandra Strawser
- Dr. Tanya Willard
- **Advising Models for Retention** - proposed by Dr. Julie Dietz
 - Dr. Julie Dietz
 - Danny Gourley Fischer
- **Survey of EIU Retention Practice** - proposed by Amy Odwarka
 - Amy Odwarka
 - Dr. Angie Jacobs
- International Student Retention subcommittee: decided to pause but not dissolve group.

VI. 162 PACK Students Fall 2025

- P.A.C.K students: 162 currently enrolled.
- The student load was split between two advisors:
 - Juanita Cross- 60 students
 - Don Dawson- 67 students
- All returning P.A.C.K students are meeting with the Advising GA Thanveer Aslam.

VII. EAB Navigate Update

- Tech audit was on the 10th of September.
- Navigate does not have all the information they need so Dr. Gillespie will be following up with ITS to have information sent over.
- Full review should be completed 100 days after data submission.

VIII. Story about Student Success from Dr. Chris Laingen

- Dr. Laingen shared with Danny their insights from his spring course data highlighting student disengagement patterns.
- Boxes shaded in red meant the student did not submit an assignment.
- 27% of all quizzes, labs, and participation points were not attempted by the students.
- Dr. Laingen estimated that if students would submit assignments, they would have 6 more A's and B's and 10 fewer D's and F's than he submitted for.

IX. Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 16th at 9 am in the Witter's Conference Room in the Booth Library.

~Minutes submitted by Brandy Verdin, Recording Secretary