

Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)
Meeting Minutes
November 13th, 2025

I. Call to Order

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on November 13, 2025, at 9 am. in the Witter's Conference Room in the Booth Library.

Attendees: Dr. Christy Hooser, Dr. Chris Mitchell, Dr. Tanya Willard, Jody Stone, Dr. Wade Smith, Dr. Ed Treadwell, Amy Odwarka, John Blue, Bobbi Kingery, Dr. Michael Gillespie, Jessie Shuemaker, Danny Gourley Fischer, Justin Tierney

II. Working Group Updates

- **Panthers Persist**

- Group held virtual meeting.
- Process of creating student-focused questions to gather input directly rather than making assumptions.

- **Advising Models for Retention**

- Dr. Julie Dietz and Danny Gourley Fischer are continuing to work on the advising models.
- Project is being elevated to the provost work group on advising rather than remaining solely within CORE.

- **Survey of EIU Retention Practice**

- Dr. Angie Jacobs and Amy Odwarka have met and discussed concerns about campus culture and sensitivity about retention practices.
- Group contacted Dr. Catherine Polydore for guidance on wording and approach to reaching out to department chairs about retention practices in place.
- Meeting with Dr. Polydore is being scheduled.

- **Veterans Connection**

- No new updates.
- Using previously collected data and planning next steps for spring semester initiatives.

III. P.A.C.K Week 10 Progress Reports:

- Week 10 data for P.A.C.K students shows:
 - Passing grades dropped somewhat, non-passing grades increases slightly.
 - Passing- 53.4 %
 - Non-passing- 46.6%
- Approximately 152 of 162 P.A.C.K students attend at least one meeting but only 90 attended 3 or more meetings.
- Strong correlation between meeting attendance and improved midterm outcomes.

IV. Midterm Grades

- A total of 1,347 students with at least one D or F were reported for Fall 2025 Midterm grades.
 - Had prior academic alert- 341 (25.32%)
 - No prior academic alert- 1,006 (74.68%)
- Top three courses with the 10 or more alerts:
 - EIU 1111- 77 alerts
 - CMN 1310G- 37 alerts
 - MAT 1160G- 20 alerts
- Top three courses with D/F grades with and without academic alerts.
 - EIU 1111
 - D/F/NC- 124
 - With academic alert- 77
 - Without academic alerts- 47
 - CMN 1310G
 - D/F/NC- 107
 - With academic alert- 37
 - Without academic alerts- 70
 - ENG 1001G
 - D/F/NC- 106
 - With academic alert- 9
 - Without academic alerts- 97
- Continued work to improve the academic alert system and communication with other departments.
- Navigate system will expand alert capabilities and allow student 'Raise Hand' requests.

V. First Gen Week

- First-Gen Week was the week of November 3rd.
- First-Gen Hub grand opening was on Friday November 7th.
- Strong attendance at First Gen Week events and hub ribbon cutting.
- Ongoing confusion among students about first-gen definitions.
- Updated and consolidated First Gen website; seeking videos and glossary improvements.

VI. Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 11th at 9 am in the Witter's Conference Room in the Booth Library.

~Minutes submitted by Brandy Verdin, Recording Secretary