

Retention Task Force Report
Summary Outline
April 15, 2008

- I. Current Support
 - Advising Center
 - Academic Support Services
 - Career Services
 - Health Services
 - Fant Memorial Library
 - Counseling Services
 - MUW Faculty
 - Student Life and Campus Recreation

- II. Why Students Leave
 - Much available data on retention rates
 - Information that provides reasons and times is not currently available but needed

- III. Barriers
 - Large, inflexible core curriculum
 - Few degree options for students with many credit hours but no degree program
 - Few financial aid opportunities available except for freshmen and transfer students
 - Difficulty completing a degree in timely manner for some transfer students due to course rotation
 - Little structured, systematic early warning and intervention for students with low grades or behaviors that lead to low grades
 - Little training for faculty for advising and teaching new generation of students
 - Adjunct faculty teaching freshmen

- IV. Recommendations
 - A. Curriculum/Instruction
 - General Studies Degree
 - Smaller, more flexible core
 - Consistent course rotation
 - Larger class size for some classes
 - Review, possible restructure, of the first year experience and UN101
 - Increased engagement and communication with community college faculty/staff
 - B. Support for Students
 - Early alert program for students with at-risk indicators with staff member to oversee

More structured, mandatory intervention for students on probation/suspension
Additional learning communities – Nursing as pilot
Greater recognition of student successes
Study and possible restructuring of financial aid opportunities
Full-time faculty teaching freshman level classes
Academic Support for online students
Professionally staffed writing center
Increased access to health care
Sufficient licensed counseling staff
Greater variety of housing options

C. Support for Faculty

Creation of teaching learning center
Advising/student engagement as part of faculty evaluation

D. Data Collection

Method for tracking how many, when, and why students leave before graduation
Tracking specific groups of students – males, transfers, non-traditional, international, etc.
Use of the National Survey of Student Engagement as a tool that to gather information regarding student engagement

E. Oversight

Standing retention committee