

**Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 13, 2024**

**I. Call to Order**

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

**Members Present:** Jody Stone, David Melton, Crystal Brown, Christopher Mitchell, Vicki Phillips, Tanya Willard, Michael Cornebise, Ed Treadwell, Jessie Shuemaker, Mona Davenport, Julie Dietz, Jill Bowers, Bobbi Kingery, Josh Norman, Danny Gourley Fischer, Justin Tierney, Amber Webb, Brandy Verdin

**II. Mini-Bridge Program (PPP)**

Mona Davenport started the meeting off with updates from the pilot summer bridge program, *Panther Pathways Program*. Mona explained that summer bridge programs are all summer long but due to budgeting, they were only able to have it for a weeklong program. It was led by three of their GAs. They also sent out full evaluations and overall students enjoyed the program. Students were able to get laptops loaned out to them and took a CSI (College Student Inventory). Mona also invited staff from other departments like the Academic Support Center, TRIO, HERC, Career Services, and more and taught them how to use the Pulse app and Knack. Students were also taken to textbook rental using the shuttle bus to pick up their books. In total, the pilot program cost about \$4000 for about 17 students.

**III. Updates to ADA Title II Digital Accessibility Laws**

Jessie Shuemaker informs the committee about the updates to the ADA Title 2 Accessibility Laws and how it will impact the university. Jessie has been working with FDIC director Dr. Michael Gillespie and Executive Director of OBAE John Blue about How these new guidelines can affect students, staff, and faculty. Jessie has also been asked to produce some language like an accessibility commitment statement for syllabus and is working on that.

**IV. Workforce Recruitment Program**

Jessie Shuemaker and Bobbi Kingery have been working together on a workforce recruitment program. Bobbi noted that they have seen students in programs like STEP completing their degrees effectively but have a challenging time finding career related employment. Bobbi explains how this has been a major frustration in their office and feels like the level of support these students need are not being met which is why they are optimistic about this program. Current students and recent graduates in the past 4 years qualify for the program. They are currently sending emails to students and launching the program.

**V. Gateway**

Danny Gourley Fischer updates the committee with a bit of data collected. Gateway retention went up 6.6% over the last year. Previously, Gateway cohort was small with 56 new students, and this year we have 100 new students. Fall 2024 cohort is at 121 students, 100 new, 21 returning. Danny clarified to the committee that just because there were 21 continuing does not mean only 21 students made it from last year. Students in the program can “graduate” from the program if they meet certain requirements. Danny also informed the group on the importance of early intervention this time, and they had 192 contacts through week 3.

**VI. Pre-Medical Studies Majors**

Danny Gourley Fischer was contacted by the biology department about an old handshake agreement. Students want to choose a pre-medical studies major like pre-veterinary sciences, pre-podiatry and more. Danny explains that from an enrollment standpoint, students need to be able to find it in the application process or they will look at other schools thinking we do not have it. The process is that when students meet with an academic advisor over in academic advising services, they explain to them they are a pre-med major but at EIU that degree plan is Biology which would then lead them to file a major change form. This process has not been followed through which has been leading to issues.

Danny also brings up the issues pre-nursing students also face when it comes to their degree works. Interest in a subcommittee was mentioned.

**VII. Supplemental Instructor, Academic Alerts, EIU 2019 Textbooks, and SEP 62: "Develop the top 10 tips for College Survival for dissemination to University Foundations and through mentorship programs"**

Amber Webb asks the committee to briefly touch on the traction of each subcommittee. Amber tells the committee about sending emails to university foundation students about what 10 tips students wish they knew about surviving college. During this time, the idea of meeting more often was brought up.

**The next meeting will be on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Booth Library Witter's Conference Room Booth Library.**

*~Minutes submitted by Brandy Verdin, Recording Secretary*