

Student Success – Retention Report
2012-2013

Members of this committee during the 2012-13 academic year:

- Beth Armstead, VP for Student Services
- Brian Johnson, Academic Advisor
- Olivia Rael, Testing Coordinator/SSC
- Rose Carlson, Institutional Research
- Tom McGaghie, GED/ABE Director
- Cecilia Stafford, Library Director
- Dr. Joan Erben, Professor and Program Manager for Communications & College Studies
- Gaylyn Yankee, VP for Business
- James Olguin, DC Coordinator
- Dr. Shawn Secatero, NASNTI Director
- Marlene Chavez-Toivanen, Program Manager for Math
- Katie O’Connor, Program Manager for EDUC/ECED
- Gene Romero, Faculty

The committee’s theme for the academic year was “Building Community”. Subgroups were **Fast Track, Spring Event and College Studies. The following are accomplishments and recommendations for 2013-14:**

Developmental Education: many members attended the Developmental Education Symposium at SIPI in Nov., to establish practices designed to help our students through developmental Math and English as quickly as possible.

CCDE 110	Gene allows students placed into CCDE 105n to register in CCDE 110n. Dr. Erben moved 12 students from CCDE 110n to ENGL 111G, after assessing their writing, for SP13.
CCDM 103n & 114n	This year we offered a section that met 4x/week. We also offered CCDM 112n&113n, however Marlene states it is taking students too long to move through 114n.
Fast Track	Marlene and Olivia worked to offer a one week “Fast Track” for students placing into CCDM 103n & 114n. This was held one week in August 2013. *We discussed a 4 week Dev Ed summer program but agreed it felt like too much to take on this summer.

College Environment “Culture”: The committee desires to create a more comfortable and aesthetically appealing “space” for students, as well as ensuring NMSU Grants supports a culture of engagement and support for our students.

Earth Day/Sustainability	Held in April. Many other worthwhile ideas were suggested, i.e. Be Kind Week, “Lunch with Ted” series. ASG purchased new benches for the campus.
“Compliment Cards” or Affirmation cards	The Library has these and the committee requested Pres. Casados acknowledge employees who received them, at Convocation or Campus Council.
New Student Orientation	Promote as “mandatory”; Continue our successful format from July ’11. Our attendance has continued to improve overall.
Student Success is Everybody’s Business	Continue to educate all faculty and staff to be involved in Student Success
Lockers	Installed early this year and placed in the Martinez Hall foyer/hall; student lounge and McClure
NMSU tee shirts	All new employees will receive a NMSU tee shirt. President Casados and Student Services provided the shirts. We also discussed ordering specific apparel that employees would then purchase, but did not complete this.
Campus workshops	The committee liked an idea whereby staff and faculty could offer mini courses on various talents and interests, but this didn’t take priority nor do most of us feel we have the time to organize such an event.
Updated Faculty/Staff photos	Requested new photos be taken and mounted in Student Services

College Studies Courses:

COLL 101 College and Life Success	Dr. Erben led faculty and staff meetings to help share and establish best practices and learning objectives. Brian set up a COLL 101 Canvass course to facilitate instructor sharing. *Concern was discussed that our 100% online COLL 101 students are not “socialized” with the campus and a hybrid format was suggested for FA`13.
COLL series	Dr. Secatero is working to offer various COLL courses at the two sites, i.e. Critical thinking, Reading, etc.

COLL 120 Career Exploration	Offered for 8 weeks, 1 cr, online. Wendy Brown picked this course up.
COLL 108 Reading	Dr. Erben is integrating a reading text into each COLL 101 section for 13-14. COLL 108 has difficulty filling and was not offered at Grants during SP13. It was taught at the Acoma site. We want to promote reading across the curriculum.

Additional strategies for Retention:

1. Mentorship program pilot – SP13 – we had 16 staff/faculty mentors serving 34. 9 students met their financial aid stipulations. Very few participated/met with their Mentor. More assessment and planning is needed.
2. Continue Quick Connect (early alert) – offer several trainings to faculty/associate faculty every Fall/Spring. Clarify NMSU Grants’ practice as to administratively withdraw from a course (or not). Advisers withdraw students at faculty request, but we also saw an increase in allowing students remain in the class (due to the change in Funding Formula).
3. Explore “mandatory” training for all students taking an online course for the first time. Advisers across NMSU continue to recognize how many students are not prepared for online courses.

Statistics from Rose:

1. 78% of our students concurrently take a Developmental course and COLL 101.

Ideas/goals for 13-14

2 Less than 10% of our students are transferring into NMSU Grants each semester. Rose reported that most of students transfer out to UNM, NMHU, and NNMC, versus NMSU Las Cruces. During Fall 2006-2012, there was a cohort of about 2,000 students and Rose found a 25% transfer rate.

Ideas/Goals/Plans for 13-14.

1. Hold another Student Forum to hear students’ voices/needs.
2. Continue to examine/analyze transfer data as this will be helpful when our new Transfer Advisor begins.
3. Dr. Erben will be offering ENGL 111G plus COLL 155 Composition Support (3 cr) for students who placed into CCDE 110n, for Fall 2013.
4. Get Online New Student Orientation on the website for students who do not attend the face to face.
5. Consider charging students’ their degree application fee at Admissions (this would need to be NMSU wide)
6. Have all Program Managers outline “semester sequencing” and provide to students, to help with degree/certificate completion.