

Student Success – Retention Report
 2013-14
 Prepared by: Beth Armstead, Chair

Members of this committee during the 2013-14 academic year:

- Beth Armstead, VP for Student Services
- Brian Johnson, Academic Advisor
- Olivia Rael, Testing Coordinator/SSC
- Cecilia Stafford, Library Director
- Gaylyn Yankee, VP for Business
- Dr. Shawn Secatero, NASNTI Director
- Marlene Chavez-Toivanen, Program Manager for Math
- Steve Stockdale, Director of ITT
- Sascha Larrabee, Transfer Advisor (January-May meetings)
- Kathleen O’Connor, EDUC Program Manager

Note: *About 6 faculty attended a Program Review retreat during the summer of ’13 and continued to meet this academic year. This affected faculty participation on this committee, but many of their initiatives also work to improve student success and retention. (i.e. student learning, graduation, transfer, job placement). Additionally, a committee met this past year, focusing on a Strategic Plan for NMSU G.*

Student Success Meetings held: Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan ’14 (held NSO), Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, and May 8, 2014
Forums: Feb. 24, April 2, and April 30

Developmental Education	This was not a focus of the committee this year, partly due to only one faculty regularly attending. Additionally, a small committee worked with Dr. Casados to submit a new Title V grant – the primary focus is supporting Developmental Education.
Quick Connect Early Alert System	At all Faculty/Assoc Faculty meetings, we educate faculty regarding utilization of QC. At a minimum we ask that they review their class lists by the 3 rd week and inform us if any students have not attended. Our goal: 100% participation for all classes. Data: Fall ’13 103 QC referrals. 10/16 fulltime/permanent faculty referred; 13/52 part time faculty referred. Of the 103 referrals, 36 had withdrawn (either administratively or student initiated). SP14: 104 QC referrals. 7/16 fulltime

	<p>faculty; 19/52 part time faculty referrals. 55/104 were withdrawn from class.</p>
Graduation Survey	<p>Student Services created and collected surveys at the Commencement Rehearsal. See attached. (Faculty/Program Review also collected surveys with the focus more on satisfaction while at NMSU G).</p>
Program Managers	<p>Student Success committee requests that each PM give a breakdown of all their courses and when they are taught (at least the ones only taught 1/year. The Business PM and Computer Technology/CMT PM have responded.</p> <p>We also ask that each PM help with promoting and recruiting their programs in the community/county, as well as provide a tri-fold that promotes their programs.</p>
Fall Convocation	<p>The group decided to try something new at NMSU G, a fall convocation for all students. We are naming this, “Bievenidos y Helado” and will invite all staff, faculty, and students (all). This will be held 2 days before classes begin, August 19, 2-4. A short welcome/program; breakouts to meet Program managers and talk with clubs; and a social time with ice cream. All present will receive a tee shirt, water bottle, and flash drives for students.</p>
ENGL placement	<p>In collaboration with Dr. Erben, we decided to have all new students submit a writing sample when they take their COMPASS. Dr. Erben will assess their writing level. Advisors will complete a “holistic assessment” to help improve our placements.</p>
SSC Tutoring	<p>Tutoring is a crucial component to college students' success, yet it's very difficult to get students to participate in the SSC tutoring program. In spring 2014 the SSC offered some prize incentives as a motivator to get students to seek tutoring services at the SSC.</p> <p>We offered such items as free Wepa printing cards to students who met a minimum requirement of tutoring hours per week, as well as weekly prize</p>

	drawings. Students were excited and participated in the weekly drawings. Weekly prizes included a student's choice of a flash drive, back pack, or gel markers and gel pens. Much to our dismay, the free Wepa printing card incentive was not a hit.
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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. Student Government and the students who responded to our Forums are very interested in improving the campus, gardening, composting, etc. One forum actually did a walk about on the campus. Recycling of plastic bottles, cardboard and paper continues by students, staff and faculty.
"Compliment Cards" or Affirmation cards	We continue to use these both in paper and online. Our committee plans to create a "Gratitude Board" over the summer. Earl Prewett built us about 5 wooden boxes for these cards around campus.
New Student Orientation	Due to the new federal mandate that all new students be training on "Campus SaVE" (reducing or eliminating sexual assault on campus), all NMSU campus' Orientations are mandatory. Student Services decided to offer NSO weekly (if sufficient students sign up and ready) between May-August 21. NSO is 2 hours long and will not involve as many staff/departments due to the frequency. Note: Student Services has been promoting NSO as "mandatory" for about 2 years now, but we did have a true consequence if students did not attend.
Student Success is Everybody's Business	Continue to educate all faculty and staff to be involved in Student Success. See attached "Best Practices"
Cyber Café chairs, Student Services chairs	Re-upholstered the chairs to update our "look"
NMSU tee shirts	Continued this practice of giving all new staff and faculty a tee shirt.
Campus workshops	Student Success Center offered one on one

	workshops, i.e. time management, study skills. Group workshops, i.e. Plagiarism, Google – Beyond the Basic Search, and The Best of the Web. Student Services offered 3 on various Career topics.
Updated Faculty/Staff photos	All photos are current and have the same “look” (location of photo)

College Studies Courses:

COLL 101 College and Life Success	Dr. Erben did not meet with the instructors as she did last year, however COLL 101 instructors are still expected to follow her basic syllabus and include an additional reading text.
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 continues to teach this. Enrollment is low and we did not have any course evaluations this past year in this course.
COLL 108 Reading	Dr. Erben integrated a reading text into each COLL 101 section for 13-14. COLL 108 has difficulty filling and was not offered at Grants during SP14. COLL 108 will be offered for FA14.

Significant occurrences for 13-14:

1. Transfer Advisor hired through NASNTI grant, beginning January 2014.
2. B&N College Bookstore left NMSU Grants and MBSDirect began serving our students, with a 100% virtual bookstore, effective January 214.

Three year retention rates for full time, degree seeking, from Fall to Fall:

Fall 2010-11 52.7%

Fall 2011-12 49.3%

Fall 2012-13 53.3%

Three year average: 51.7%

Statistics provided by Rose Carlson, Feb. 2014

Ideas/Goals/Plans for 14-15.

1. Continue holding Student Forums to hear students’ voices/needs, at least 1/semester.
2. Continue to examine/analyze transfer data and how to help our students obtain Bachelors degrees..
3. Have all Program Managers outline “semester sequencing” and provide to students, to help with degree/certificate completion.
4. Offer Student Convocation for Fall and Spring

5. Continue the Graduation survey and offering workshops to help students prepare for career search, interviewing, etc.
6. Increase % of all faculty utilizing QC for early alerts.
7. Request a strong faculty member co-lead this group to help with faculty involvement and buy-in.