

Retention Task Force: 2-21-14

Victoria

Present: Debra Andrews, Elizabeth Elam, Shannon Feinman, Chad Patton, Martha Reed, Stanley Johnson, John Sykes, Jamie Jones, Melissa Wood, Rebecca Laben, Gary Cifers, Sarah Horne, Bernadette Battle, student: Victoria Wood.

Recommendations for approval and tasks to be completed

- The Public Relations Department is working with Jack Ancell to review and remove outdated Youtube videos about SVCC.
- Dean Feinman reported on the testing of “Remind 101”, a student messaging system. This free service was tested by several members of the committee and the results look promising. This service could be used by departments or by faculty for individual classes. Users have the ability to opt in and out and your personal cell phone number is not used. The Committee endorsed this tool and recommended it be made available to anyone who wishes to use it.
- Mellissa Wood reported that SAILS implementation continues. It is currently being used for developmental students and more courses will be added next semester. She stated that faculty usage is increasing. Mrs. Wood reminded the group that SAILS should be the second method to contact students and it is not meant to replace direct contact between faculty and students. Monthly usage reports will begin to be distributed soon.
- The group reemphasized the need for faculty to assign graded work early each semester and check student progress twice during the first four weeks of each semester. This will occur at the 10% and 25% mark.
- The committee unanimously voted to make Sails mandatory for the 10% and 25% student checkpoints. Currently, faculty evaluate their students at these milestones and communicate problems. Using SAILS for this process will provide a record of the students issues and accomplishments. (needs President Staff approval).
- Martha Reed and Sarah Horne presented each campus’ progress with the Mentor Program. The Christanna Campus asked orientation students to volunteer for the program. The John H. Daniel Campus assigned mentors to their developmental students. The group discussed ways to increase student participation on both campuses. It was suggested for data to be collected to evaluate the efficiency of the program.
- Gary Cifers reported on the creation of an ambassador program at the Southern Virginia Education Center. It seems that there is good student interest in this program and Gary plans to use the ambassadors to help welcome students at events and to.....NEED MORE ASK GARY.
- Jenne Vaughn, the College’s Retention Specialist was introduced to the group.