

MEMO

Date: January 17, 2008

From: Stu Harvey

To: AtD Leadership Team, Data Team and Academic Deans

Subject: Issues selected at January 11 Workshop

Below, I've listed the issues that were discussed and selected by participants in our workshop on January 11. These will be the issues the strategy teams will be researching and proposing interventions for in the next phase of our project.

Developmental Education

1. Low success rates in Basic Math and Elementary Algebra. Although listed as separate issues in the pre-work, these two issues were linked in most participants' minds. In addition to extremely low student success rates, alignment issues between these two courses as well as the design of the entire developmental math sequence were topics of discussion during this meeting and previous breakout sessions.

2. Students moving from developmental courses to subsequent courses without successfully completing their coursework. Often referred to as the "loophole", several presenters emphasized this issue is broader than simply changing a policy and involves taking a close look at how the college evaluates student readiness for college and developmental courses.

Course Completion

3. Low success rates in gateway courses (those that were listed in the pre-work included English 1113, Political Science 1113, Math 1513 and History 1483).

4. Low success rates in online courses. Several groups indicated that student success issues in this popular learning format could become a serious problem for the college due to its increasing popularity. Another group mentioned that they believed computer literacy could be a key underlying cause to the problems experienced by many students.

Persistence/Retention

5. Students who do not receive financial aid have lower retention rates. Most groups combined this issue with three other issues related to lower success rates of students with Expected Family Contributions of \$1,500 or less.

6. There is no commonly understood advisement policy. The groups were unanimous in choosing this as a priority, and they agreed that the issue is larger than a policy or communication problem and involves the entire advisement process.

Other Issues

7. Three other issues were flagged for discussion and potential follow-up: responding to data from the college's recent CCSSE Survey; and analysis of any racial or ethnic patterns in the student success data; and an analysis of the success rates for special needs students.

Stu