

February 20, 2018

To: Student Success Alliance (SEM Steering Committee)

From: Tracy Smith and Mary Virnoche, Co-Chairs, SEM Retention Council

UPDATE ON RETENTION COUNCIL WORK

Subgroups for Retention Focus: 1st Year First Time; Middle Years; Transfer Students

We have developed draft benchmarks for retention and graduation. Tracy and Mary will meet with OIE on February 21 to review and correct the projection formulas (spreadsheet), and make additional adjustments to projections based on outcomes of existing HSU related programs or national data. We will also incorporate projections for closing the achievement gap.

We will likely recommend immediate and comprehensive roll out of two strategies: advising and basic needs. There will be a gradual roll out of block scheduling and learning communities. We will work with OIE to decide if particular subgroups of students will be targeted in each stage of the roll out.

It will be critical that each strategy be assigned a project manager/lead to produce a comprehensive, coordinated and full scale implementation. Some of this work is already underway with staff and faculty in pockets across campus. The Retention Council will identify work in progress and include that information in our final recommendations to SSA.

We anticipate that moving forward, after SSA approval of the umbrella outline for each strategy and related tactics, that the Retention Council will become an oversight and advisory group meeting a few times during AY 18-19.

Primary Strategies Confirmed by Retention Council

1. Comprehensive, holistic and integrated advising practices and systems that build on first year and beyond peer mentor infrastructures.

Project Leads: Mary Virnoche; Mentoring Lead: Tracy Smith

Estimated gain in first-year retention at full scale: ?

Estimated gain in second and third year (spillover and added) retention: ?

Estimated gain in Transfer Student Retention: ?

2. Block Scheduling and Learning Communities Project Lead: Rock Braithwaite

Estimated gain in first-year retention at full scale: 5% (1200) = 60

Estimated gain in second-year (spillover) retention: 2%? (840) = 17

Estimated gain in Transfer Student Retention: NA

Notes: Community building and belonging first year; academic integration & career middle years

Primary Strategies Still in Discussion with Retention Council

3. Basic Needs

Housing support. Project Lead: TBD

Food Security. Project Lead: TBD

Mental health services expansion. Project Lead: Brian Mistler (Substrategy confirmed)

Estimated gain in first-year retention at full scale: 2% (1200) = 24

Estimated gain in second and third year retention: 2%% (840) = 17

Estimated gain in Transfer Student Retention: 2% (900) = 18

Tactics Notes

We have yet to engage with the data on Basic Needs. It is likely that tactics for addressing basic needs will also be addressed with tactics branching from other strategies (e.g. advising) and rely on existing or developing resources. We have not yet fully engaged with ideas of direct resourcing programs only recently developed to address campus hunger (e.g. Wellness Center Food Pantry) and Housing (e.g. Housing Liaison position).