The attached report provides an update of the progress the Retention and Graduation Task Force has made since its preliminary report to you on November 1, 2006.

The report describes the Task Force’s work, which is presented in six phases. Phase 1 through Phase 4 reflects the progress of the Task Force to date. Phases 5 and 6 are contingent upon your review of the recommendations presented in Phases 3 and 4.

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The Task Force recommends the following academic, administrative, and assistance policies and proposals that potentially present obstacles to student retention and graduation. (The complete proposal and rationale for each recommendation are presented in the report body.)

**Recommended Academic Proposals**

1. Decrease the current minimum of 128 semester hours needed to complete an undergraduate degree. *(Approved)*
2. Update EKU Admissions Standards Language. *(Approved)*
3-a. Require students who are undecided by choice to declare a major within a college. General Studies is a solid option for those who are uncertain.
3-b. Require students to officially declare a major prior to registration for the semester in which they are registered for their 45th hour. *(Approved)*
4. Simplify the minimum scholastic standards policy (academic standing). *(Approved)*
5. Revise the Dismissal Policy – Allow students to earn credits from transfer coursework taken while on academic dismissal from EKU. *(Approved)*
6. Implement a mandatory academic-help course for students on academic probation.

**Recommended Administrative Proposals**

1. Ask all colleges and departments to state explicit retention and graduation goals in their biennial action plans.
2. Include retention and graduation as an agenda item on a standing committee of Board of Regents.
3. Increase accountability of colleges and departments for retention and graduation results by offering a pool of funds for units that meet pre-determined goals for retention/graduation rates.
4. Enforce the EKU August 1 admissions deadline and develop an alternative for late applicants that works with them but keeps them out of the retention denominator (such as part-time enrollment, retaking the ACT, waving any re-admission fees, etc.). *(Implemented)*
5. Allow some faculty to choose to emphasize advising and get adequately rewarded for doing so.
Recommended Assistance Proposals

1. Implement an Early Alert Retention program. *(In process)*
2. Revise EKU Admissions criteria for targeted tuition to allow students completing developmental education and/or pre-college curriculum requirements to receive targeted tuition for the next academic year and thereafter when requirements have been met. *(Approved)*
3. Create a strong, centralized mentoring program with common goals, required reporting, and assessment of efforts that has a more persistent style of mentoring for students identified as being at risk.
4. Establish a continuing funding source for EKU Tutoring Services and collaborate with projects, such as the Studio Project, to seek locations for a one-stop location for tutoring services, in addition to services offered by academic units.
5. Enhance availability of financial aid/scholarships for underserved students – non-traditional undergraduates, upper-division students, Transfers, etc.
6. Provide workshops to address the retention needs of EKU students, focusing on particular students issues (e.g., diversity, financial aid, personal finance, and transitioning from the workforce to college).

Next Steps

Pending your review and acceptance of this report, the Task Force will proceed as follows:

1. In August, present these 18 proposals to EKU’s campus community via the appropriate curriculum and administrative processes and councils.

2. Work with Enrollment Management, Student Affairs, and the Provost to select a consultant to identify ways EKU can enhance/transform our campus culture and engage students in ways that encourage students to persist and graduate.

These recommendations to revise EKU policies will have modest short-term as well as long-term costs. The cost of hiring a consultant as proposed for Phase 4 will depend upon the scope of the consultant’s responsibilities.
President Glasser, thank you for this opportunity to review student retention and graduation at EKU. We look forward to receiving your response to this progress report and welcome any questions you may have.

Members of Task Force

Scott Amundsen  Academic Advising and Retention
Mike Austin  College of Arts and Sciences
Sue Cain  Transition and University Services
Gary Cordner  College of Justice and Safety
Matthew Glover  Student Representative
Claire Good  Student Affairs
LaCrystal Green  Diversity Office
Mike Hesse  College of Business and Technology
Scott Hunt  College of Justice and Safety
E. J. Keeley  Enrollment Management
Jeff Klein  Student Representative
Brad Marcum  Library
Kim Naugle  College of Education
Charlotte Rich  College of Arts and Sciences
Jack Rutherford  College of Health Sciences
Stacey Street  Institutional Effectiveness
Sarah Tsiang  College of Arts and Sciences
Mary Whitaker  College of Health Sciences
Rodney White  College of Education
Janna Vice, Chair  College of Business and Technology