

Report to Faculty Senate
Janna P. Vice, Interim Provost

October 5, 2009

Preliminary Retention Data

Although the numbers are not official until October 15, our preliminary report to CPE indicates that our retention rate* for Fall 2008 to Fall 2009 is 68.5 percent. This rate will be the highest retention rate EKU has seen in a decade. Although the rate still needs to be higher, this increase is encouraging. **We are reminded that “retention is the power of everyone.”**

* The Retention Rate reflects the number of full-time, first-time freshman enrolled at EKU in Fall 2008 who have returned in Fall 2009. The retention rates for the three prior years are:

Fall 2008 - 63.2 percent.
Fall 2007 - 62.3 percent.
Fall 2006 - 64.9 percent.

The unofficial retention rate for transfer students from Fall 2008 to Fall 2009 has dropped slightly less than 1 percent to 70.2 percent. The transfer retention rate was 71.1 percent at this point for Fall 2008 new transfer students.

Project Graduate

Since its inception in late November 2007, Project Graduate has assisted 32 EKU adult students with degree completion. In addition over 70 new adult students are registered for fall, with 23 more adults on target to graduate in December. Approximately \$23,000 in adult learner scholarships and work study have been awarded to Project Graduate participants through Lumina funds received from the CPE in support of Project Graduate efforts. EKU was especially proud this June when two of our Project Graduate students gave testimonials to the Council members about how Project Graduate helped them achieve their dreams of degree completion.

Project Graduate, a Council on Postsecondary Education initiative, is designed to bring back adults with 90 or more hours for degree completion. To date over 400 adults at EKU have inquired about degree completion. The Project provides a variety of services from the initial inquiry through course registration, working to make a seamless process for the student. EKU Project Graduate liaison Lisa Cox credits this success to the behind-the-scenes collaborations with the offices of Admissions, the Registrar, and Financial Aid, and Academic Specialists in the various colleges.

Senate Bill 1

As the year progresses, the faculty will be hearing more about Senate Bill 1. College readiness (developmental education) is a key component of the Bill as stated below:

Senate Bill 1, as enacted by the 2009 General Assembly, Section 1, states: “Whereas, the General Assembly finds the continuing high rates of high school students who require remediation at the postsecondary education level totally unacceptable and an unwarranted additional expense to the state, students, and parents who expect that completion of high school coursework should lead to successful entry and success in postsecondary education, the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Board of Education and the Kentucky Department of Education are hereby directed to develop a unified strategy **to reduce college remediation rates by at least fifty percent (50%) by 2014 from what they are in 2010 and increase the college completion rates of students enrolled in one (1) or more remedial classes by three percent (3%) annually from 2009 to 2014.**”

How does the retention rate of ECU students with no developmental needs compare with the students who have one or more developmental needs? As shown in the following table, ECU retained 74 percent of the first-time students who had no developmental needs compared to our overall retention rate of 68.5 percent.

**Fall 2008 to Fall 2009 Retention Rates Compared by Number of Developmental Needs –
New First-time students**

Developmental Needs	None	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Retained	1189(74%)	243 (58%)	148 (59%)	77 (58%)	39 (59%)	8 (44%)	4 (50%)	1708 (68.5%)
Not Retained	412 (26%)	177 (42%)	101 (41%)	56 (42%)	27 (41%)	10(56%)	4 (50%)	787 (31.5%)
Total by No. of Dev.	1601	420	249	133	66	18	8	2495

Note: Of the 2,495 first-time students entering ECU in Fall 2008, 1,601 (64 percent) entered without developmental needs.

Of the 894 (36 percent) first-time students entering in Fall 2008 with at least one developmental course need, 519 (58 percent) were retained to Fall 2009.

Source: Dr. Sue Cain, Director of ECU’s Office of Developmental Education and Academic Testing

ECU is fortunate to have Dr. Sue Cain (who is on leave to CPE) heading CPE’s collaboration efforts with KDE and the universities. Dr. Gary Kuhnhehn is representing ECU at the statewide readiness meetings. We also have a number of education faculty and content specialists participating in the state meetings.

Enrollment Report

The enrollment report as of October 2, 2009, *compared to October 2 data last year...*

- Total enrollment is up 2.3% to 16,267
- Undergraduate enrollment is up 1.9% to 13,996
- Graduate enrollment is up 4.6% to 2,271
- New Freshmen enrollment is up 6% to 2,663
- New Transfer enrollment is up 6% to 1,257
- New Graduate Student enrollment is up 3% to 501
- Black Student enrollment is up 11% to 861
- Total credit hours are up 3.9% to 198,943
- Corbin credit hours are down 8% to 8,761
- Danville credit hours are down 5% to 4,566
- Manchester credit hours are down 5% to 2,351
- Online credit hours are up 54% to 16,254

Source: ECU's Office of Institutional Research

Student Success Advisory Council

The Student Success Advisory Council is currently reviewing two procedures that potentially affect student success: (1) university withdrawal procedure and (2) change-of-major process. Both of these topics will be brought to the Faculty Senate for your review and discussion.

Distance Education

With the support of the University's administration, the deans are devoting considerable discussion this fall to the topic of distance education. Although the number of ECU's online credit hours is up for Fall 2009, we need a comprehensive plan for developing, supporting, delivering, and rewarding distance education initiatives. These discussions include the following:

1. The ultimate goals for distance education at ECU, which include:
 - a. High-quality programs and courses.
 - b. Flexibility for students in our Service Region and beyond who need the programs but their circumstances will not allow them to take face-to-face courses.
 - c. Enrollment growth. With state appropriations continuing to dwindle, growing student enrollment is one means of sustaining our programs.
 - d. An enhanced academic infrastructure. A successful on-line program can generate resources that support the overall academic programming, reward faculty and programs, and build capacity for student success initiatives.

- e. Recognition that the momentum and growth in higher education in Kentucky as well as in the nation is in distance education.
2. Data-gathering initiatives, which include:
 - a. Visits to ECU by Dr. Rob Wyatt, Western Kentucky University; Dr. Dan Connell, Morehead State University; and Dr. David Sondervan, University of Maryland.

Drs. Wyatt and Connell head their respective institutions' efforts in distance education. Last Friday, they discussed their administrative models with approximately two dozen ECU faculty, chairs, deans, and administrators, including the President and Provost.
 - b. The Provost and deans, in teams of two and three, will be visiting the University of Cincinnati and East Tennessee State. Three deans will visit Troy University on November 10.
 - c. A telephone conference is scheduled with Appalachian State on October 27 in SSB 549. Topics with ASU will include student success as well as distance education.
 - d. The Provost and others will attend the Sloan Consortium's annual conference, which is said to be the leading conference for distance education.
 3. A panel of ECU faculty who have developed expertise teaching online. The Provost will be asking the deans to identify a faculty member from each college to serve as a "panel of experts" to inform the deans and administration of faculty's needs, suggestions, and concerns as we develop comprehensive plan for on-line programs.

Discussion for October

In addition to the discussions involving distance education, the Council of Deans' agenda for October will also include (a) the budget preparation process, including setting course fees and (b) reports on the colleges' definitions of student success.

Lunch with the Provost

Faculty Senators are invited to eat lunch with the Provost on Wednesday, October 7, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room, Powell Cafeteria. Please sign in at the register.