

STUDENT SUCCESS TIGER TEAM

The Institute is experiencing considerable progress in meeting its desired outcome indicators for retention and graduation. Notwithstanding, as we position ourselves to move forward to meet President Destler’s targets for 2012 and beyond, it is important that we create a retention plan that is based on assessment of the effectiveness of our current practices with consideration given to whether any mid-course corrections are warranted. We need to ask ourselves whether the strategies that are currently in place are sufficient to carry us forward in meeting University goals? Are there modifications and improvements that should be considered? Should some initiatives be discontinued in favor of new proven interventions that hold more promise and are considered ‘best practice’ in the field.

Charge to Task Force:

- 1. Examine existing national best practices related to retention with special focus given to those strategies used by RIT peer institutions.**
- 2. Assess how RIT measures up against national ‘best practice’ in the strategies and programs it currently offers.**
- 3. Identify the ‘metrics’ used by other institutions to measure the impact and effectiveness of retention strategies.**
- 4. Review data, as available, on the impact and effectiveness of RIT’s current retention efforts.**
- 5. Based on available information and analysis from #1-4 above, recommend an institutional plan for moving forward that emphasizes high-impact, value-added success strategies—retention practices that can really make a difference!**
 - a. This plan should be based on an overarching retention framework or “commonweal” that recognizes best practice, metrics for assessing effectiveness and the fact that retention is an iterative process which involves the entire campus community.**
 - b. The framework should take into consideration the interplay between student characteristics and institutional characteristics; identified student needs; the University’s experience and success with retention practices and promising new initiatives and approaches in the following domains:**
 - c. First Year Programming (FYE, Learning Communities, etc.)**
 - d. Academic Advising**
 - e. Academic Support**

- f. Mentoring**
- g. Campus Life, including housing**
- h. Curriculum Flexibility**
- i. Policies/Procedures (Grade exclusion, Demand scheduling, etc)**
- j. Other: Early Alert System, AIM, Honors Program Expansion, etc.)**

Timeline:

A report will be delivered to the Provost by May 2009

Membership:

The Tiger Team will be comprised of the following members:

Academic Senate Chair or designee and 2 additional faculty members

Staff Council Chair or designee

Student Government President or designee

Faculty Representatives

Student Affairs Representative

Director of Institutional Research

Registrar

Enrollment Management and Career Services Representative

Assistant Provost for Student Success

Senior Associate Provost, Chair