

Admissions and Financial Aid Committee

November 15, 2013

Present: Wade Leuwerke(guest), Yusuf Quereshi, Kevin Saunders, Sandy Henry, Melissa Sturm-Smith (guest), Andrew Welch, Kevin Lam, Bob Soltis, Susan Ladd, Tom Delahunt, Keith Summerville, Michael Harvey

- Tom Delahunt gave a brief overview of the Admissions outlook for Fall 2014 – visits are up, applications are up and – at this very early stage – prospective students are saying good things. The bottom line for many families, however, is finances so we cannot
- Things we can do to enhance the transfer process:
 - We need to make the process speedier – it takes Drake a long time to get students from application to admitting to scheduling
 - CAAD might want to take a look at this workflow and design something that can be more efficient.

Kevin Saunders analyses:

- The committee received a preliminary report regarding analyses of how high school GPA and standardized test score predict EFR GPA / final GPA.
- The report provided by Kevin is appended to these minutes
- The data that Kevin produced is pretty much exactly what we see at the national level – ACT / High School GPA explain roughly 38-40% variance in EFR GPA.
- ACT score / high school GPA are not good predictors of retention, however. Aspects related to Drake's culture, etc. appear to be more significant predictors of whether a student returns to campus post-year 1.
- We can use some more cognitive / behavioral metrics of student success to help boost our retention rate.
- Variables in the models are treated as independent – several committee members asked questions related to whether intercorrelations among variables might be more telling in terms of ways Drake culture promotes / inhibits retention.
 - The Committee charged Saunders with the task of digging a little deeper into the data:
 - Specifically – how to second review students perform at Drake – what is there GPA after year one, how are they retained, does major matter?
 - In addition, Saunders will perform some additional analyses to try and tease out how Drake's culture does / does not enhance our retention.

Admissions Pilots

- The committee discussed the following scenario – a student with high high-school GPA, heavy involvement in community and co-curricular and low test score applies to Drake. Currently, we treat those students as “second-re view” – they get an interview or we remove them from the applicant pile all together. Is there interest in allowing some marginal test-takers into Drake as long as GPA is over some threshold and departments agree?
 - Each faculty member on the committee was charged with going back to his/her faculty to assess whether support existed for a limited pilot that would allow Tom some test-optional flexibility in admitting marginal students.

Intrusive Advising

- The committee also discussed the intrusive advising model deployed by Melissa Sturm-Smith and 4 other staff. Conversation turned to retention.
 - The Committee charged Summerville with drafting a slight re-write of the committee’s charge to present to Exec – this revision would clearly delineate a role for faculty / Faculty Senate in developing mechanisms to address / improve retention.

Next meeting scheduled for Dec 6th at 9am in FAC268.