

SPAW 2020: HLC and Retention Update

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HLC

- Regional accreditor
- Three “pathways” to accreditation
- We’re on the “Open Pathway”
- Quality Initiative = Advising
- 10-year accreditation cycle
- Final report due June 1, 2024

Why advising?

1 Advising affects retention

Cohort	Retention Rate
Fall 2014	89.1%
Fall 2015	87.3%
Fall 2016	86.4%
Fall 2017	83.5%
Fall 2018	83.5%

1 Chance to develop a formalized, unified approach

What has been done so far?

HLC Quality Initiative Steering Committee

Committee Member	Department
Dr. Heather Cianciola	McNair, English and Linguistics
Dr. Janet Gooch	Academic Affairs
Dr. Barb Kramer	Chemistry
Dr. Dave Lusk	Career Center
Andrea Maag	Center for Academic Excellence
Dr. Michael Rudy	Political Science and International Relations
Jonathan Vieker (chair)	Retention and Student Success
Dr. Tim Walston	School of Science and Mathematics
Robin White	Financial Aid

What will be done?

- Data regarding student, faculty, and staff perceptions of advising on campus, student/advisor expectations
- Evaluation of our current advising model (year 1: professional advisor, years 3-4, faculty advisor)
- Set of University-wide expectations for advising performance to be applied to promotion and tenure evaluations
- A defined plan of annual professional development requirements/opportunities for faculty and staff advisors.
- A revised advising handbook for the use of all faculty and staff advisors.
- Guidance for faculty and administration regarding how advising by faculty is counted in workload.
- Guidance for all University employees regarding their role in advising students in their formal and informal interactions.
- Guidance for students on how to maximize their relationship with their advisor and a plan for sharing that guidance.

Who is working on this?

Advising Vision Subcommittee

Formal Advising Subcommittee

Informal/Peer Advising Subcommittee

Student Expectations Subcommittee

Advising Tools and Institutional Data Subcommittee

Conclusion

- Feedback welcome! (vieker@truman.edu, or you may hear from us)
- University-wide initiative
- Thank you for your support of great advising at Truman!

Retention Update

What Is Student Retention?

- *A university's ability to hold on to its students.*
- Influenceable by the institution
- Complex but well-studied phenomenon for which best practices have been established
- A function of the student experience.
- *First year retention rate*: proportion of a university's full-time, first-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students who return for their second year.

Current Numbers

Cohort	Retention Rate
Fall 2014	89.1%
Fall 2015	87.3%
Fall 2016	86.4%
Fall 2017	83.5%
Fall 2018	83.5%
Fall 2019	88.3% (tentative)

How We Got Here

- *Retention is a team effort.*
 - ▶ *Everyone* focused on retention this year.
 - ▶ Faculty, staff, administration
 - ▶ These numbers are the fruit of *your* labor
- Center for Academic Excellence
 - ▶ Did a lot of the heavy lifting this spring
 - ▶ Followed up on the “COVID survey”
 - ▶ Reached out to nearly 200 students submitted by faculty
 - ▶ Helped returning students change Fall 2020 schedules

Where We're Going

- Advising (HLC Quality Initiative)
- CAE offering advising/enrollment services to all students
- Deep dive into retention data
- Regular reports to key stakeholders
- Assessing existing retention-related processes

How You Can Help

- Refer students when concerned
 - ▶ Any-time, Any-Student Warning
 - ▶ Students of Concern (SOC)
- Normalize struggle
- Continue to connect with students (especially right now)