

Information Item

Progress Report on Student Success at The University of Montana- Missoula

That

Partnering for Student Success has been operational for approximately two years as a plan to increase retention rates and graduation rates on the Missoula campus. This report will provide an update on outcomes, strategies, and needs associated with the effort.

Explanation

Part 1: Outcomes

Partnering for Student Success is being implemented according to the plan that was presented to the Board in November 2008. The plan was constructed around six key issues:

- Preparing K-12 Students
- Transitioning to College
- Integrating the Early College Curriculum
- Engaging Students
- Strengthening Student Support
- Emphasizing Faculty and Staff Development

Results will be presented showing an increase in retention rate on the main campus in accordance with goals. Response at the COT has not met expectations.

Part 2: Implemented Strategies

Strategies implemented to date include:

- Establishment of an Office for Student Success to coordinate a wide range of activities such as the Writing Center, Study Jam, Math Pilot, Undergraduate Advising, placement.
- Strengthening of Advising, including an advisor specifically assigned to bridging COT and main campus transfers.
- Intensive interaction with the P-12 community through the Missoula County Public Schools Education Summit and *Graduation Matters*, the Montana Math and Science Teacher Initiative, and rapidly expanding dual-credit offerings.
- A redesign of summer orientation that pre-registers students for core courses, that provides an option for completely on-line advising and orientation, and that incorporates “GO Day” (Grizzly Orientation Day) in the week before Fall classes begin.
- Establishment of a new Faculty Development Office that brings together all aspects of faculty development under the auspices of a single office.
- Design of academic programs of high student interest.
- Outreach to place-bound students through on-line learning, the Bitterroot College Program, and the Montana Digital Academy.

Part 3: Additional Strategies

- Encouraging students to take course loads more conducive to completion by renewing emphasis on the existing “Four-Bear” program and by adopting a tuition structure that encourages full-time enrollment. A need-based aid package, with contributions from both state resources and philanthropically developed funds, is integral to this strategy.
- Implementation of the new productivity allocation model that focuses on course completion because of improved student success.
- Implementation of a new Admission Policy for The University of Montana- Missoula that focuses students on a full college preparatory curriculum and that utilizes a target-date admissions process to encourage early application.