

**Student Success Team**  
**Significant Accomplishments**  
**Metropolitan Campus**  
**2007-2008**

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**Membership:** Steve Armeli, Theresa Coll, Coleen Curtis, Indira Govindan, Judith Kaufman, Bub Kovacs, Maureen Kief, Ren Mabey, Kerri Majors Okang McBride, Jessica McMillan, Rachel Murphy, Rich Panicucci, chair

**Work of the Mega committee:**

**Advocated for the creation of the Office of Student Success:** The Student Success Team has been examining the Metro Campus Data and researching national best practices and decided in the fall that as part of the strategic planning and budget process that it is vital to move towards having an Office of Student Success. An organizational chart and job description for the Director of Student Success was created and presented at the annual budget meeting.

**Participation in Noel-Levitz conference:** In the summer of 2007, Jessica McMillan and Craig Mourton attended the Noel-Levitz National Conference on Student Recruitment, Marketing, and Retention. They brought back many useful ideas and strategies that the team has been examining.

**Participation in two Audio Conferences:** *Second Year Success: Curricular and Co-Curricular Initiatives* on January 30<sup>th</sup> and *Secrets to Increase Retention Rates at Your University* on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Both audio conferences were very informative in the area of best practices.

**Datatel Retention Alert System:** Viewed presentation by Datatel and advocated for its implementation with the help of Saul Kleinman at a recent campus cabinet meeting.

**Informed ourselves of the research of Judith Kaufman and Steve Armeli and how it pertains to FDU attrition:** They conducted statistical analyses to examine how attitudes regarding various aspects of the FDU experience during freshman year were associated with returning to FDU the following year. Specifically, they matched data from 265 freshmen who took a freshman seminar (FS) survey in the fall 2006 semester (administered by Dr. Judith Kaufman) with enrollment status in the fall 2007 semester. Of the 265 freshmen who took the FS survey, 64 dropped out. The strongest predictor of dropping out was students' self report of the likelihood of graduating from FDU (1 = extremely likely to 7 = not at all likely). Specifically, the odds of dropping out for students who responded "not at all likely" was about 14 times greater than the odds of dropping out for students who responded "extremely likely." Whether or not students anticipated finishing college in general was not related to dropping out; thus, our finding was

specific to graduating from FDU. These results suggest that some students as early as first semester freshman year recognize whether or not they will remain at FDU. Identification and intervention of such students could be a cost-effective strategy for reducing attrition.

**Focus Groups with Freshman Seminar Students in the spring:** Focus groups were held with two of the four freshmen seminar sections in the spring with the hopes of implementing them in all of the sections in the fall 2008. Students were asked what they liked about FDU, what they don't like about FDU and what FDU should be doing that we currently are not. While the sample size was small for this first attempt, we have identified areas that we will be examining more in the coming academic year.

**Late Knight Breakfast:** The Student Success Team in conjunction with the Office of Student Life cosponsored the Late Knight Breakfast each semester.

## **Work of the Subcommittees**

### **Subcommittee A (Pre-admit and freshman year):**

- Faculty for Freshman: Kerri Majors became part of Student Success Team and created planned two lunches to bring together the faculty that teach freshmen. During these lunches the faculty present workshoped ideas to better serve freshmen students in the classroom. The group decided to focus on planning a faculty for freshman orientation in the fall as its main project. This event will take place on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Began initiative and advocated for Mid Semester Grades for all freshman (pending).
- Provided feedback for the necessity of the establishment the Office of Student Success to address both the university and campus number one priority of retention.
- Researched Freshmen Extended Year Programs at other institutions

### **Subcommittee B (freshmen into sophomore year):**

- Held Freshman Reunion Social on early February, 6<sup>th</sup>. This event was created and implemented to build campus community and continuity of the freshman
- Brainstormed questions for freshman focus groups

### **Subcommittee C (sophomore into Junior Year):**

- Co-sponsored with the Silberman College of Business a sophomore brunch. At this event students and their families met with representatives of the different majors in the Silberman College of Business. Representatives from Career Development and the Parents Council were also present. The event was very successful and will be implemented in all of the colleges next year.
- Examined EFE as a component of attrition.

