First Gen Discussion Notes from Retention Meeting

September 2, 2016

* Eugene recommended a FG newsletter
  + Programs and services
  + Workshops for Faculty and Staff volunteers
    - Research on being an ally for students
* Data
  + Not able to pull data at this point on student success because we’ve only being doing online apps for 3 years
    - Previous data came through questions on FAFSA
* Paula Lewis explained that FG students don’t understand process for getting into school
  + Financial Aid
  + Recommended bridge program in summer
* Leslie Johns commented that HS counselors don’t have time to assist with transition to college
* Jill Shackelford recommended Back-To-School fairs for parents and students oriented to financial aid
  + Take training on the road to high schools
  + Demographic study on graduation rates, what helped them make it, not deficit model
* Feature First Gen on rolling quotes on website
* First Gen should be something students are proud of
* Recruiters try to touch base on Financial Aid
  + College Prep class
  + Evening FAFSA workshops for parents
  + Separate workshops for parents “Making Cents of College”
* Rick recommended HS Principal and Counselor workshops
  + Survey HS and ask how we could augment their efforts
* Pam suggested the workshops be open to all students, not just those deemed college ready
* Stacy Frazier offered the following ideas:
  + Have casual lunch meetings with FG faculty and staff to meet with FG students.  This would identify FG faculty and staff to students so they know their resources, provide time for casual conversation, and allow for brief lunch and munch topics.  Stacy recommended having 2nd year FG students attend and give testimonials of best practices.
  + Have 1-2 advisors in each division specialize in FG student enrollment.  Might provide a better first impression for FG students.
  + Identify FG students so FG faculty can interact with them.

Follow up Recommendations

* Monthly meetings with First Gen faculty/staff with First Gen students and Veterans
  + Sounding board
  + Best practices
* Have 1 advisor in each division that specializes in First Gen students
* First Gen faculty help interact with First Gen Students