

Persistence & Completion Academy Minutes
September 25, 2018
FMTZ Conference Room, 1:00-2:00 p.m

Present: Thomasinia Ortiz-Gallegos, Kimberly Blea, Lee Allard, Juan Gallegos, Benito Pacheco, Edward Martinez, and Maria Sena

- I. Updates
 - a. Edward indicated that committee is short staffed due to members leaving university. Need to determine who will replace Casey and Elizabeth. Susan, new director of ARMAS, might be interested. Edward will reach out to her.
 - b. Committee needs to decide if this committee becomes part of the Retention Advisory Council.
 - c. Casey, Edward, and Ian held a retention forum for the campus community to discuss advising and how advising can be incorporated into outcomes assessment. Presented data from our survey, NISE, FISE, and SSI information. Forum was not attended well.
 - d. Casey asked to present during professional development week, however proposal was not accepted. Edward indicated that he was going to start visiting departments during departmental meeting to discuss retention at NMHU.
 - e. During the Persistence & Completion Academy in Chicago, IL, committee decided to adopt advising as their project. What challenges will we receive from faculty? Advising is viewed differently by faculty. Edward indicated that he wants to start the discussion with the campus community.
- II. Advising Discussion
 - a. Edward indicated that a more professional advising system needs to be in place.
 - b. How do we get departments and faculty to buy in?
 - c. Would one person be in charge of it?
 - d. Centralized professional advising is the model the committee would like to work towards. It is different engagement with students. Edward and Benito would like to recommend this approach. Highlands has an obligation to HLC and the Persistence and Completion Academy.
 - e. Advising is not being taken away from faculty.
 - f. Edward and Benito will develop a specific plan and they will be strategic and intentional. They will develop a mode and indicate that current model is not working.
 - g. Edward will put a presentation together. Volunteers will visit, senates, academic affairs, student affairs, and departments themselves.
- III. HLC-Persistence & Completion Academy
 - a. Meeting with Susan Wood, Persistence & Completion Academy mentor, is scheduled for Thursday at 11. Committee agreed to postpone meeting with mentor until the committee meets in two weeks. Committee will meet with mentor as a group.