

Student Retention Taskforce Report Summary

University Senate

Spring 2019

Why Retention is Important

- Enrollment is steady, not going up.
- State appropriations to MTU are dropping.

Student Retention Task Force Charge

- Identify issues, policies, practices, and structures that affect retention
- Give examples of evidence-based successful practices
- Suggest innovations to help retention
- Suggest strategies to promote a growth mindsets
- Give prioritized recommendations

Task Force Members

- Brian Barkdoll Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering Department
- Katrina Black Senior Lecturer and Advisor, Physics
- Paul Charlesworth Associate Professor, Chemistry Department
- Bonnie Gorman Dean of Students and Associate Provost for Student Affairs
- David Hemmer Dean, College of Sciences and Arts
- Ann Humes Director of First-Year Mathematics
- Susan Liebau Director, Wahtera Center and Assistant Dean of Students
- Lorelle Meadows Dean, Pavlis Honors College
- Mike Meyer Director, William G. Jackson Center for Teaching and Learning

How can we increase retention??

- Your thoughts???

Priority #1

- Develop a comprehensive early intervention system

If we catch struggling students early ,then we can help them be successful.

Priority #2

- Improve first-year instruction and academic support

Most students drop out in first year

Have first year courses taught clearly and in a supportive way

Also have more coordination in the first year between departments and student services

Matters because there is a rise in anxiety among students

Priority #3

- Revise the academic advising system by school/college

Advising is a student's touch with a person

Advisors can make a difference in the student's decisions

May need more advisors

Priority #4

- Address student mental health and wellbeing through a strategic campus-wide approach

More mental health counseling, in addition to the JED Campus initiative to assess current mental health services that is already underway

Lots of pressure on students (rise in anxiety as mentioned before)

Priority #5

- Introduce flexibility into the curriculum

Some students unsure of interests and career options

Need flexibility to change majors easily

Broader Recommendations

- Use data effectively to decide how to reach out better.
- Reexamine potentially unfriendly university policies.

of times to take a course, length of degree programs, dropping schedules, unpaid bills, lack of waitlists, not getting a needed course, academic calendar, etc.

Report Eventually Available at

<https://www.mtu.edu/provost/reports/initiatives/>