

To: Sue Godar, President; Esther Martinez, Vice-President
WPUNJ Faculty Senate

From: Bob Wolk, Chair
Senate Admissions & Retention Council

RE: Year End Report
Date: May 10, 2009

During the academic year 2008-09 the Senate Admissions & Retention Council met eight times.

Members of the Council include:

Prof. R. Wolk, Library
Prof. M Rudnick, Accounting & Law
Prof. C. Mulrine, Special Education
Prof. G. Scott, Languages & Culture
Prof. P. VanDohlen, Mathematics
Prof. T. Leshner, Communications

Questions and recommendations for the Senate to consider:

- Promote the idea that an attractive campus is a selling point to students and parents who visit. Painting and cleaning of buildings should not occur only when the governor visits!
- A representative from the Professional Staff should be added to the Council
- The Administration's representative should come from the Undergraduate Division rather than the Graduate Division
- In order to establish a WPUNJ identity, stick to one slogan and demonstrate how that slogan IS carried through in academics and campus life - **PRIORITY**

Basic Skills: **members note that many students are unprepared to do college level work in GE classes**

- Are the standards to test out of Basic Skills too low?
- Do students leave WPUNJ because of inadequate preparation that results in failing grades and lower retention rates?

Admissions:

- Are criteria for foreign students different than other FTFY students?
- Committee notes that many students are admitted with great variance in TOEFL scores
- Council recommends that University continue to develop formal forecasting system to predict enrollment

- Council recommends integration of You tube, e-mail, Twitter, text messaging and other programs frequently used by students as part of their communication and recruitment message system
- Continue to tap markets outside of tradition 6 counties in NJ
- Promote the campus through successful graduates – not faculty!
- Listen more to what our students are telling us about campus problems and concerns
- Use our best and brightest students as model for recruitment

Retention:

- What is the impact on retention from the increased enrollment if non-regular admits?
- Council recommends creating a central tracking system for all at-risk students. This would eliminate faculty being contacted by and reporting to several offices
- How will cutbacks and limiting scholarship funds affect retention and admissions?
- Council recommends monitoring enrollments to evaluate scholarship distribution as it affects retention
- Because quality advisement is integral to retention, Council recommends that advisors be limited to full-time faculty
- Advisement of undeclared might be performed better by professional advisors in the Advisement Center
- Fully fund and strengthen Academic Support Centers. If all students who need help actually come, we lack sufficient resources to assist them.
- Develop a Transition Program for transfer students - **PRIORITY**
- Faculty advisors should be limited to those who connect with students!! – **PRIORITY**
- Expand Cooperative Education Programs

Respectfully submitted,

R. Wolk