MEETING NOTES

Absent: A. Abrego, J. Bailey, W. Jacobs, A. Martin, M. Martin, S. Neufeld
Staff/Guests: K. Lurye, C. Snyder

The meeting came to order at 9:05 a.m. Introductions followed.

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW/BINDER REVIEW
S. Morgan-Foster provided the new members with an overview of the committee’s charge. This committee has served as a clearing house to discuss and assist with various campus projects and programs. This helps to marshal our resources better and to prevent redundancy. A diverse group of individuals who have or are currently a part of these campus efforts have served on this committee to provide expert feedback.

Retention Data – The six year graduation rate for the cohort that started in 2002 was 52.7%. The average age of undergraduates has steadily decreased to 23 as of fall 2007. Average unit load for freshmen in F08 was 12.9, which is high compared to other campuses. The six year rate for the most recent cohort (entering in 2003) is of concern. It has declined to 49.5%. A. Sanchez discussed this briefly.

Survey Data – Last year the committee analyzed several surveys. The results are in the binder. This needs to be reviewed and continued this year. (NSSE/FSSE, graduating seniors, alumni, career, CLA.)

Retention and Graduation Cohorts – The committee regularly reviews cohort data in disaggregated format. This needs to continue. A special analysis should be done for selected cohorts. The scoping of this project can be per the subgroup’s direction.

Visit Hosting for Student Success Studies
The committee has in the past assisted several visiting organizations conducting research for reports on graduation rates outcome, such as the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). Results of the AASCU report are provided in the binder. The SREB report will be distributed at the next meeting.

First Year Experience
FYE is presently being reviewed by a small group. S. Marshall to provide information at the next meeting on the First Year Experience Seminar.

Retention Data Dashboard – A dashboard diagram was created by previous members. The project has been ongoing and will provide useful information. If the committee chooses to finish this project, it will be quite useful and possibly a benchmark project.

Summer Reading Program – The program was introduced in 2002. Each year the committee selects a book for incoming freshman to read. Several authors have been invited to campus to
meet with students and provide book signing. L. Renner stated that the program has had mixed participation and enthusiasm from students. The key to success is strong faculty support, which he is committed to securing. K. Lurye shared responses from freshman who have not read the books. Committee feedback is solicited on making the program more effective. Membership on the committee is open to anyone. S. Marshall suggested making summer reading a requirement of the First Year Experience.

Closing Gap Graduation Initiative – H. Lujan provided an overview of the Chancellor’s Office graduation initiative project initiated in December 2002 to improve graduation rates. This project has continued over the years. The most recent submissions are in the SSC binder. More recently in November the CO hosted a presentation by Sir Michael Barber on improving graduation rates using the principles of deliverology. The project anticipates increasing rates approximately 6% over a period of time. Even though our campus has met its targets under the project, we were asked to develop a plan. There was a very short turnaround time. A committee, comprised of R. Noble, L. Renner, A. Sanchez and H. Lujan created and submitted to the Chancellor’s Office a preliminary report in December 2009 (provided in binder). The report will be updated and resubmitted as soon as possible. The committee will convene again shortly with a goal to enlist at least 3 faculty to provide input to complete this project. The SSC will be kept apprised of the status. Any comments or feedback should be directed to R. Noble.

SUBGROUP ASSIGNMENT DISCUSSION
S. Morgan-Foster opened the floor for discussion and comments on projects. A. Sanchez would like to ensure that we conduct a study of on the recent graduation retention rate drop. The group also overviewed all the past projects to determine which needed continued attention. The group determined to select 4 projects for work this spring. The Retention Data Dashboard project was postponed.

SUBGROUP ASSIGNMENTS:

A) CSI Team (Retention Forensics: 2003 6 year cohort rate)
   1) A. Sanchez, Chair
   2) V. Luevano
   3) R. Albert
   4) S. Marshall
   5) P. Telya
   6) L. Bernardo
   7) M. Martin (added after meeting)

B) Retention Cohorts (Demographic Study of Students)
   1) L. Renner, Chair
   2) A. Sanchez
   3) S. Marshall
   4) D. Davies

C) Survey Data Projects (NSSE/FSSE, Alumni, CLA, Graduating Seniors)
   1) M. Gerson, co-Chair
   2) A. Sanchez, co-Chair
   3) R. Noble
   4) L. Renner
   5) T. Buhler-Scott
   6) R. Albert
D) **Summer Reading Program**
   1) P. Telya

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.