

Development of an Early Alert Warning System For Oregon State University

Issue: Oregon State University is currently at work in reviewing, designing and instituting a network of initiatives aimed at improving undergraduate education and engagement. The integrated nature of student success calls for a network of programs and interventions as is evidenced in the national conversation. Thus the introduction of an early alert system at OSU is timely and stands to be integrated into a variety of efforts to engage students and improve retention.

What has been done:

- I was asked to co-chair a university-wide committee to address success of first-year students.
- The committee met six times from January through March 2010.
- Subsets of the committee met to gather information on such topics as utilization of technology, pass rates for selected OSU courses, current literature, and comparator institutions.
- In examining the process and criteria the committee developed guiding principles.
- A list of triggers was developed to identify at-risk students.
- Mechanisms to obtain the trigger data, make and receive referrals, and respond to at-risk students were developed.
- Pilot programs were developed.
- Six recommendations for implementation of the Early Alert Warning System were presented to the Associate Provost for Academic Success and Engagement.

Impacts: Our recommendations were approved. Implementation will begin during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Funding Sources, Cooperators, Partners, Mentors, etc.: Moira Dempsey, Director, Academic Success Center; Dr. Susie Brubaker-Cole, Associate Provost for Academic Success and Engagement; College of Agricultural Sciences; College of Liberal Arts, Office of the Dean of Student Life; Residential Life; College Student Services Administration; INTO; Exercise and Sports Science; New Student Programs & Family Outreach

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