UNIVERSITY AD HOC TASK FORCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION AND GRADUATION

Fall 2017

Background:

UNE has made great strides on a number of metrics over the past decade. However, the overall rates of retention and graduation in our undergraduate programs remain far below where they should be. A task force, made up of faculty and professional staff drawn from across the University, is charged by the President with studying this issue and offering a realistic plan for addressing it.

Charge:

1. Document UNE's retention and graduate rates across undergraduate programs, including longitudinal trends
2. Conduct a literature review on the variables – both pre- and post-matriculation – impacting student retention and graduation
3. Conduct a literature review on programs, services, and other strategies shown to be effective in improving student retention and graduation
4. Conduct a search of best practices at other colleges/universities for improving student retention and graduation
5. Conduct an analysis of existing institutional data related to any of the above factors, including benchmarking UNE against admissions and aspirant peers
6. Collect any relevant new data (e.g., surveys, structured interviews, focus groups)
7. Summarize, analyze, and synthesize the above findings, and incorporate them into a white paper with recommendations for a comprehensive plan to address student retention and graduation rates at UNE

Membership:

Karen Pardue and Charles Tilburg: Co-chairs	Kathy Davis
Nicole Trufant	Beth Dyer
Paul Henderson	Emily Dragon
Scott Steinberg	Dani Deason
Dennis Leighton	Michael Burman
Jen DeBurro	Mary Elizabeth Patnaude
Curt Smyth	Ellen Ridley
Ellen Beaulieu	Gabriel Valley [student]
John Langevin	Erinn Stetson - Admin support

Timeframe:

The task force should initiate its work as soon as feasible, with the goal of issuing its findings by the end of the current academic year (May, 2018). Progress updates every 60 days will be provided to the President.