

## **Goal 1: Excellence in Teaching and Learning**

### ***D. Improve retention in the student pipeline; increase graduation rates***

#### **Aggressive Advising**

*Constant monitoring, and an early warning system, especially in the first year, is essential. Quality as well as quantity of the advisors needs to be reviewed. Advising situation in departments may differ from that in University College. Student focus groups for feedback may be helpful. Consider means to enhance support for faculty and to strengthen faculty development in advising.*

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#### **Current Status**

- Overall, IUPUI students consider academic advising a very important part of the college experience. Just over half of students are satisfied with the advising they receive.
- Several campus programs engage in activities that could be defined as intrusive advising/mentoring.
- “Advising” at IUPUI is often equated with class scheduling, while “mentoring” defines the more developmental activities related to student growth and learning. True advising and, in particular, intrusive advising is about both activities.

#### **Recommendations**

- Constitute a campus-wide advising council charged with establishing a campus-wide philosophy and defining learning outcomes for advising.
- Strengthen the role of advising in promotion and tenure.
- Allocate CTE money to each school to create at least one staff advising position to provide intrusive advising for a specific population of students as deemed appropriate by the school.
- Provide training and professional development for advisors.
- Sponsor a team of faculty and staff to attend three of the institutes sponsored by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA).
- Assign faculty mentors to every student not enrolled in a learning community.
- Automate the early warning program to ensure that students receive early warnings no later than six weeks into the term.
- Train advisors who work with students on probation to use a more intrusive approach to advising. Require these students to have multiple contacts with an advisor or to participate in the University College STAR (Students Taking Academic Responsibility) mentoring program.
- Require students planning to appeal financial aid decisions to participate in an intrusive advising program that requires meeting with an advisor prior to filing the appeal, and to continue these meetings throughout the semester.

#### **Implementation**

- Establish a campus-wide advising council by Fall 2007.
- Send teams of people to the NACADA institutes on advising in Summer 2008.
- Allocate CTE money for each school to hire a staff member to conduct intrusive advising with targeted student populations beginning fiscal year 2008–2009.
- Conduct in-depth analysis of student success to identify target populations for intrusive advising and examine the practices of successful students, beginning in January 2007.

(Revised October 26, 2007)