

Sep 26, 2024 | 📅 First-Year Council

Attendees: Kristin Millard Eric Neff Brandon Flores Kathryn Van Wagoner
Diego Dominguez Debbi Murphy Sarah Herrmann Nathaly Pimienta Leigh Shaw
Carl Porter Sara Triplett Dr. Ahmad Sims Becky Marchant Karen Hicks Ashley Owens
Roy Kwon Christy Call Susan Matt Amy Huntington Brooke Kelly Erik Hogge
~~Jenny Frame~~ ~~Becky Jo Gesteland~~ ~~Alexis Bucknam~~ ~~Aimee Golden~~ ~~Teresa Martinez~~

Agenda:

1. Purpose of First-Year Council
2. Creating First-Year Structures and Role of Each Council
3. Running Data Deck for Strategic Councils

Meeting Materials:

1. [USASIE First-Year Council Slides](#)
2. [Data Deck Slides](#)

Takeaways

Retention

- We started with a discussion of retention. It's important to keep in mind that retention is driven by a variety of factors including academic support, student engagement, financial aid, campus climate, and individual circumstances.

Breaking Down Data

- Retention data was shared and then there was a discussion on additional information the committee wanted to see. Specifically, the committee wanted to filter delayed starter data by: 1) Age and 2) Gender
- Longer-term it will be useful to gather information on delayed starters who are not retained to understand their reasons and develop targeted interventions. Understanding the specific student profile would be useful.
 - A deferment form will soon be implemented and that may serve as a way for us to know why delayed starters leave Weber State University

Specific proposed fixes

- Explore targeted and personalized outreach methods, working with the advisors and other groups, since students often do not respond to generic emails.

- Increase support systems for part-time students
 - Despite their family and external responsibilities, some students are enrolling full-time to secure financial aid.
- Dedicated campaign for part-time scholarships
 - Scholarships could be offered to help with the difference that Financial Aid does not cover for part-time students.
 - Dream Weber does offer some opportunities for part-time students
- Schedule Flexibility
 - Enhance retention by offering students more flexible scheduling options.
 - Remove Friday classes?
 - Data indicates that students tend to perform less well in Friday classes compared to other days.

Composition of the First-Year Council

- Consider adding folks from the following:
 - CCEL (they report to Jeff)
 - Marketing & Communications
 - Online
 - Data team