

College of Technology

Office of the Dean
Terre Haute, IN 47809
812-237-3166
Fax: 812-237-3733
<http://technology.indstate.edu>

TO: Dr. Michael Licari
Provost and Vice President
Academic Affairs

FROM: *REE*
Robert E. English, Dean
College of Technology

DATE: November 9, 2015

SUBJECT: College of Technology Student Success Plans

Attached you will find the departmental student success plans from the College of Technology. Student success is our highest priority within the College with participation among our administrators, faculty, staff, students, and parents. It is our desire to have the college engaged in student success at all levels. We have been working to improve recruitment yield, retention, persistence, and graduation rates in our College. With this being our second year using an integrative approach, we believe that we can do a better job. We are very excited that the university is putting emphasis on student success as its highest priority and look forward to much iteration, changes, and updates to this living document.

Our college looks at student success as an integrative approach so that not only do our individual departments have a plan, but so does our college. Likewise we must work together with the rest of the University community to assure student success. We are simply better together. Just like last year, you will notice many similarities in regard to the undergraduate goals and actions of the department occurring in the college. This is intentional so that there are there are levels of consistency regarding what students experience at both the individual department and at the college level. In working through the student success report, we did discover that we have little to no information from our graduates about student success. We will ask our second semester seniors that are on track to graduate to identify their biggest roadblocks. We will ask students who weren't successful why. The goal is to ask our current graduates what activities would have helped them graduate in four years. In their eyes, what were the roadblocks? Action will be taken to remove those roadblocks.

COLLEGE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

There are four initiatives from the College of Technology to assist in student success.

GUIDANCE FROM ABET

The first initiative is to develop more insightful information from ABET. We want insight from a national perspective on best practices for engineering technology. There are two parts. The plan entails a consultant from ABET looking at our programs at the macro level to determine ways of streamlining our curriculum and making sure that our academic hours are appropriate. Can our high credit hour majors be reduced and still meet our accreditation standards? We want to look at our high credit hour majors and best practices to optimize the curriculum for student success. The logic is to see from ABET's perspective the high credit hour issue. The

second part is that there are a number of private institutions (with high tuition) that have engineering technology, and common sense dictates that they have strategies to make sure that their students graduate on time. Best practices – there are private institutions offering ET programs, where tuition is high, and not all students are in the upper 20 percent, and the expectation is that students will graduate in four years. What strategies do they have to improve their students graduating in four years? We believe that this type of insight will help us optimize our student success practices.

COURSE TRANSFORMATION ACADEMY

The chairs recently visited with Josh Powers to look at specific insight of “roadblocks” in the College of Technology. The plan is for a visit with Jennifer Schriver of the Course Transformation Academy. There is considerable evidence that high enrolled classes can be improved by systematic improvement where some use technology and some use other techniques. We want to improve our WDF courses in a sustainable way.

DEPARTMENTAL FOCUS

Each department has been requested to look at data (such as from Fall to Fall retention by class level, course completion ratios, end of term performance by undergraduate level, grades, etc.) from Student Success (Josh Powers) to select a specific student success roadblock to eliminate. Each department will be responsible for selecting one roadblock and eliminating/minimizing that roadblock this year. Each department will look at its metrics and road blocks and develop a plan to operationally improve that area. This is above and beyond departmental goals, etc. There will be a COT Department Competition. Those departments who either have the highest percent graduating in four years or those who have improved the most (percent of increase) will receive an additional 2K in travel dollars.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Dr. Affan Badar has been assigned to student success for international students. We have a high percentage of students who are international, and many of these are classified as Saudi students. Dr. Badar will devote time (on a half time basis) to identify problem areas, develop actions items to resolve these issues, and work with students and possibly faculty to eliminate roadblocks. The objective is to work with these students so that we increase their chance of being successful at ISU, and also identify areas of concerns from faculty and resolve where feasible.

STUDENT SUCCESS

In order to draw on the expertise of the COT faculty/staff we will be having an all-day retreat on January 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. that will focus on student success. This will accomplish the following 1.) Assure buy-in of all COT personnel and impart an understanding of just how important this is. 2.) Identify additional areas for improvement that will lead to greater student success. 3.) Draw out multiple perspectives, best practices and innovative ideas in this area.

Many of the undergraduate goals and actions you see listed on the departmental reports were centrally created through the dean’s office and student services, with input from department chairperson, faculty, staff, and administrators. The execution of these actions is a joint effort of all members of our college and many others across the university campus. The accomplishments in the student success arena in our college would not be possible without the intrinsically motivated faculty, staff, and student who truly want to see students be successful academically, socially, and in their post-graduation career goals. If you have any questions regarding the attached plans, please do not hesitate to contact