

**PRESIDENT’S COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION (CUR)
RECOMMENDATIONS**

To the Members of the College Senate:

Please read the full report from the President’s Committee on Undergraduate Retention and the major recommendations that are listed separately in this document. You will notice that some of the recommendations have already been implemented or are in process. During the April Senate meeting, I would appreciate you sharing your thoughts and comments with me during the meeting. You can also put your thoughts down on paper and provide them to me during the April meeting as well.

Thank You

Kate Conway-Turner

3/5/16

CUR recommends...

1. The following annual goals for the first-year retention rate:
 - 72% by fall 2017
 - 75% by fall 2018
 - 77% by fall 2019
 - 79% by fall 2020

2. Exploring how to expand the capacity of the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program.
ALREADY UNDER REVIEW BY THE PROVOST.

3. Exploring the use of additional incentives to increase the enrollment of students in the more selective admissions categories. These may include earlier registration, reduced parking tags, use of reserved technology, and early move-in to the residence halls, to name a few.

4. Implementing Mandatory Advisement by fall 2016.

5. Conducting an immediate institutional review of fiscal resources to determine how we might hire new professional staff to enhance advising to achieve a mandatory advising model of at least all first-year and ideally including sophomore students.

ALREADY UNDER REVIEW BY THE PROVOST.

6. Moving the advisement initiative into the Academic Student Success Center once opened in the E. H. Butler Library and in the meantime placing all professional advisors together in the same location.

THERE WILL BE A DROP-IN ADVISING CENTER IN BUTLER LIBRARY IN FALL 2016. THE STAFFING LEVEL AND DEGREE OF SERVICES IS DEPENDENT ON A GRANT PROPOSAL.

7. Enforcing the “Buffalo State Student Advisement Policy” that was approved by the College Senate on March 12, 2004 (See Buffalo State College Handbook for Faculty and Librarians, August 2015 pages 9.3-9.4 for the complete policy).

8. Implementing mandatory mid-term grading at all class levels.

9. Adopting the following policy regarding mid-term grades: “All instructors must assign mid-term grades for all undergraduate students. Mid-term grading must be implemented at least two weeks earlier than its current schedule in order to provide sufficient time for faculty and student support personnel to provide support, feedback and appropriate intervention to assist in adjusting academic behaviors.”

10. Investigating using technology to minimize the impact of entering mid-semester grades.

11. That all faculty consider taking attendance and either making it mandatory, or implementing innovative methods of encouraging attendance, especially for students at risk of failure.

12. Exploring new technological methods of monitoring attendance for faculty who wish to use these methods.

13. That faculty consider implementing a system that acknowledges both attendance and participation in class as class attendance does not necessarily correlate with content engagement.

14. Reviewing the impact of an increasing the learning communities program.

THE PROVOST AND VP OF STUDENT AFFAIRS LOOK TO IMMEDIATELY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LEARNING COMMUNITIES TO INCLUDE 9 ADDITIONAL COMMUNITIES IN THE FALL.

15. Updating the list of courses which typically have greater than 30% of students with grades of D, F, or W.

ALREADY AN ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF THE DEANS AND PROVOST.

16. Providing supplemental instruction/assistance to students in high failing rate classes at no charge to the student. , and that students be advised that this assistance is available to them at no charge.

17. Implementing a pilot Supplemental Instruction program in the Fall 2016 semester with those faculty who are interested in participating.

A PHASED IN SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAM WILL BE IMPLEMENTED, TARGETING AT LEAST 10 COURSES IN FALL 2016.

18. Revising the Intellectual Foundations Program with an emphasis on increasing engagement of students, particularly in the first year.

19. Developing a campus-wide retention dashboard that is internal and provides department-specific information on retention and graduation rates.

ALREADY UNDER DISCUSSION BY PROVOST AND CIO.

20. Developing communications to the campus community that highlight the important role faculty play in the lives of students. Messages highlighting how Buffalo State is a community of faculty and staff who care about students and are genuinely interested in their success.

UNDER DISCUSSION BY THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION.

ADDITIONAL RETENTION INITIATIVES:

1. Mindset intervention with all incoming freshmen and transfers during orientation:
Will be implemented Fall 2016.
2. First-Year Forgiveness Proposal:
The Provost and Associate Deans are working on a formal proposal to help retain underperforming students in their first college semester.