

SOUTHERN

Board of Supervisors

UNIVERSITY



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Meetings

9:00 a.m.

Friday, May 25, 2012

Board of Supervisors Meeting Room
2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building
Southern University and A&M College
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

9:00 a.m.

Friday, May 25, 2012

**Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room
2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building
Southern University and A & M College
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Invocation
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Public Comments
5. Informational Item(s)
 - A. Report on Retention and Graduation Rates, SUBR
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

Members

Dr. Eamon M. Kelly – Chair; Mrs. Ann Smith- Vice Chair;
Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Sr., Atty. Tony M. Clayton, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr.
Mr. Willie E. Hendricks, Atty. Patrick D. Magee, Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr.
Mr. Darren G. Mire - Ex Officio



**Southern University and A&M College
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

REPORT on RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

Submitted to

Southern University System

May 2012

Southern University and A&M College

Southern University and A&M College (SUBR) is guided by its mission, which is “to provide opportunities for a diverse student population to achieve a high-quality, global educational experience, to engage in scholarly, research, and creative activities, and to give meaningful public service to the community, the state, the nation, and the world so that Southern University graduates are competent, informed, and productive citizens.”

FINDINGS FROM EVALUATION OF RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

Evaluation of SUBR showed attainment of targets (within the 2% margin of error) for required retention rates, same institution graduation rate and doctoral completers. SUBR did not meet its target for baccalaureate and master’s completers. The review process identified areas in need of improvement and outcomes where SUBR competes well with its state peer institutions, even when our students represent largely underserved and at-risk populations. Strategies implemented to improve retention and graduation rates will be maintained and in some cases expanded.

An evaluation of SUBR targets for baccalaureate, and master’s completers using trend analysis shows that the targets are not data driven nor evidenced based. For example, the targets for baccalaureate completers for 2010, 2011, and 2012 project increases over 2009-10 completers of 3.9% to 5.9%. Predictive analysis using data on SUBR baccalaureate admits for 2005, 2006, and 2007 shows a decline in FTF admits from a 23% decrease in 2005 to 7% decrease in 2007. Data driven targets for SUBR for baccalaureate completers 4 to 6 years later (2009 through 2013) should reflect this decline but with improvement in completers each year to achieve six year GRAD Act outcomes.

A survey of freshman students who were enrolled in Fall 2010 but did not return in Fall 2011 showed that family and personal issues were the major reasons. This survey also revealed that the SUBR registration process could affect a student’s decision to return.

Financial/Financial Aid	24%
Family	32%
Registration	26%
Personal	36%
Transferred out	14%

Strategies and policies implemented by SUBR to improve student retention, graduation and completer rates include:

- SUBR decreased the number of developmental courses offered from 3,147 SCHs in 2004-05 to 402 SCHs in 2010-11. SUBRs decrease in developmental SCHs is the largest decrease among state peer institutions (La BoR Report SCHTXRPT2K 2010-11).
- The Finish What you Start Campaign, implemented Fall 2011 is designed to assist students to complete course work and decrease withdrawals. The expected result is an increase in retention

and graduation rates. The campaign uses faculty advisors, Center for Student Success (CTLE), and Student Success Tutoring Services to assist students. The goal for 2011-12 was to decrease withdrawals by 2.2% (from 11% in 2009-10 to 8.8%). The data show that for fall 2011 the withdrawals decreased to 4.5%.

- The initiative to “Fix Registration” began in fall 2010 with a goal to fully implement Banner by Fall 2012 to allow for state-of-the-art processes from recruitment & admission through re-funds. This initiative is currently on target.
- The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE) is designed to positively affect the 1st to 2nd year student retention rate for both first time freshmen and transfer students. CTLE is responsible for ensuring that all incoming freshmen and transfer students receive sufficient academic, social, and emotional support services during their first year of college. By addressing the factors that contribute to low graduation rates and extended time to degree completion, the expectation is that Southern University will meet, if not exceed, the annual benchmarks and 6-year targets established by the Louisiana GRAD ACT. The University acquired over 1 million dollars in external funding to employ 14 advisors assigned to CTLE to assist in the retention efforts.
- The Student Tracking System (CTLE-STs) which is an SUBR- designed process and online product that provides a methodology and design platform for the documentation, retrieval, and analysis of student performance was implemented Fall 2011. The use of STS will assist faculty and CTLE advisors with their efforts to monitor student progress toward degree completion with data outputs each semester.
- The development of a proposal for a BS Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. The letter of intent was the result of findings from analysis of data on graduation rates and numbers of students who persist but do not graduate. The degree is scheduled to be offered in fall 2012 if approved by La BoR . Implementation of the Interdisciplinary Studies degree should increase the number of completers and the university’s graduation rates.
- Implemented a new agreement with a community college this reporting year (**SUBR-SUSLA Partnership to Increase Bachelors Degree Attainment of Community College Transfers**). The expected outcome is to increase recruitment, retention and graduation of transfer students from community colleges and to demonstrate collaboration in implementing requirements of R.S. 17:3161. The plan is to expand this partnership through agreements with BRCC & Delgado Community College during GRAD Act Year 3.
- SUBR was granted approval by Louisiana Board of Regents to offer its baccalaureate degree in nursing as an RN to BSN Program through a 100% on-line format. The goal is to enroll associate degree graduates who seek to attain a BS in nursing. Implementation of this program could significantly increase graduation of transfer degree students at SUBR.
- Improving Data Integrity for SUBR was an initiative developed and implemented to address inconsistencies in information reported to external agencies. The overall goal is to provide accurate data through developing effective verification processes and providing training for employees responsible for data input and extraction. Improved technology and employment of additional data analyst are also objectives of this effort.

RECOMMENDATIONS resulting from findings

- **Continue and expand strategies to increase retention and graduation rates, completer rates and partnerships with High Schools**
 - The Finish What you Start Campaign
 - The “Fix Registration” Initiative
 - The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE)
 - The Student Tracking System (CTLE-STIS)
 - The Early Start program
 - The BIS Degree

- **Expand the SUBR-SUSLA Partnership to Increase Bachelors Degree Attainment of Community College Transfers** through agreements with BRCC & Delgado Community College.

- **Continue and complete the initiative to improve SUBR data integrity.**

- **Explore through SUS and BoR revisions of Years 3 through 6 GRAD Act targets for baccalaureate and master’s completers to more align them with trend data on SUBR admits.**