Student Engagement and Advising....Let's Talk

Advising Network Brown Bag Lunch Series
December 3, 2014
Where we stood in 2011...

**Freshman to Sophomore Retention: Peers (Fall 2009 to Fall 2010)**

- Columbia: 100%
- U. Penn.: 95%
- Northwestern: 90%
- USC: 85%
- Tufts: 80%
- BC: 75%
- Emory: 70%
- NYU: 65%
- Northeastern: 60%
- GWU: 55%
- Syracuse: 50%
- BU: 45%

**Peer Six-Year Graduation Rates (Fall 2004 Cohort)**

- Columbia: 100.0%
- U. Penn.: 90.0%
- Northwestern: 80.0%
- Tufts: 70.0%
- BC: 60.0%
- Emory: 50.0%
- USC: 40.0%
- NYU: 30.0%
- BU: 20.0%
- Syracuse: 10.0%
- GWU: 0.0%
- Northeastern: 0.0%
BU’s 5-year goals

Raise freshman retention to 96%
Raise six-year graduation rate to 90%

Led to formation of the Student Engagement and Retention Group
Where we stand as of 2013...

**Freshman to Sophomore Retention Rates: Peers (Four Year Average)**

- Columbia: 100%
- Brown: 99.5%
- U. Penn: 99.0%
- Johns Hopkins: 99.5%
- Northwestern: 98.5%
- USC: 98.0%
- Tufts: 98.0%
- U. Rochester: 95.0%
- BC: 95.0%
- Emory: 90.0%
- Northeastern: 85.0%
- GWU: 85.0%
- NYU: 80.0%
- Syracuse: 80.0%
- BU: 75.0%
- U. Miami: 75.0%
- Fordham: 75.0%

92.6%

**Six-Year Graduation Rates: Peers (Fall 2006 Cohort)**

- Columbia: 100%
- U. Penn: 99.5%
- Brown: 99.0%
- Johns Hopkins: 99.5%
- Northwestern: 98.5%
- BC: 98.0%
- Tufts: 98.0%
- Emory: 90.0%
- USC: 90.0%
- NYU: 85.0%
- U. Rochester: 85.0%
- BU: 80.0%
- Syracuse: 80.0%
- Fordham: 80.0%
- U. Miami: 75.0%
- GWU: 75.0%
- Northeastern: 75.0%

84.4%
“Student academic engagement drives retention and graduation; understanding where engagement is strong and where it is lacking, making informed assessments about the causes that underlie disengagement; and, developing strategies that prove effective in increasing the strength and quality of academic student engagement will lead to increases in retention and degree attainment.”

(November 2011 memo from Provost Jean Morrison)
So what is NSSE?

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is a nationally administered survey through which students convey their opinions regarding the characteristics and quality of their educational experience.

In Spring 2014 BU administered the National Survey on Student Engagement to first year students as well as seniors. (One of various efforts spearheaded by the Student Engagement and Retention Group created to address Provost’s challenge.)

Aggregate Spring 2014 NSSE results were published in late November. (See the [NSSE website](http://www.nssse.iub.edu) as well as an article in [The Chronicle of Higher Education](http://chronicle.com).) While BU’s NSSE data by majors and school/college is still being prepared, we are anxious to share some of the high level survey results.
NSSE Results

Areas of Excellence

• 86% of students have participated (or plan to participate) in high-impact practices like internships, co-ops, field experiences, student teaching, and study abroad
• 80% of students regularly engage in discussions with people from different racial, economic, religious, or political viewpoints or backgrounds
• 86% of students said BU contributed “very much” or “quite a bit” in gains in critical and analytical thinking (educated citizenry)
• 60% feel a collaborative educational spirit on campus, assisting others in exam prep and course content
• 76% of first-years said BU “substantially” emphasized use of learning support services
• 87% of first-years and seniors rated their educational experience as “good” or “excellent”
NSSE Results

Areas for Improvement

• 39% of first-years and 36% of seniors are satisfied with advising
• 45% of first-year students rated the quality of their interaction with faculty as “high” (6 on a 7 point scale)
• Compared to other institutions who administered the advising module we scored the same or (mostly) lower, yet we were ahead of our peers for some of the high impact practices and engagement indicators

“During the current school year, about how many times have you and an academic advisor discussed your academic interests, course selections, or academic performance?”
   Average response was 2.2

“During the current school year, to what extent have your academic advisors been available when needed?”
   61% “quite a bit” or “very much”  23% “some”
   6% “not applicable”  11% “very little”
Where do we go from here?

- Student Engagement and Retention initiatives
- Task Force on the International Student Experience and Institutional Impact
- Living Learning Communities
- Outreach to at-risk students
- Course Innovation
- Financial Assistance
- Advising Network
- Academic Advising and Planning

Deans will proceed on a school-specific basis using information gleaned from the school/college and majors reports as well.
Student Engagement and Advising....Let’s Talk

• Thoughts?
• Insights?
• Surprises?
• Takeaways?
• Moving forward?
Our advising has everything to do with student engagement and retention and graduation. We connect students with resources, serve as a point of engagement with the University community, we can encourage thoughtful learning, nudge students towards high impact practices and engagement opportunities so they can pursue every opportunity for success.

Thank you for participating today and for everything you do for our students!
SAVE THE DATE

Career Services Panel
Thursday, January 29, 2015
12:30 p.m.
100 Bay State Road, Room 613

Join us to learn more about all the career resources available at the University and meet terrific colleagues from the different career offices across campus.