

Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE)
Meeting Minutes
July 24th, 2025

I. Call to Order

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) was called to order on July 24th, 2025, at 1 pm. in the Witter's Conference Room in the Booth Library.

II. Attendance:

Michael Gillespie, Jessie Shuemaker, Chris Mitchell, Amy Odwarka, Angie Jacobs, Vicki Phillips, Amber Webb, Jill Bowers, Tanya Willard, Danny Gourley Fischer, Julie Dietz, Justin Tierney, Jody Stone, Ed Treadwell, Wade Smith

III. Retention Symposium

Scheduled for September 24, 2025, after President Gartrell's Fall Update. An afternoon session with data sharing and breakout discussions will follow it. Speakers and participants include Jody Stone, Jeremy Alexander, and Josh Norman from the Student Affairs department. The tentative start time is 1:30 pm.

IV. Navigate 360 Update

The project transitioned from Josh Norman to Michael Gillespie and a new implementation team. ITS is identifying key variables in Banner. A 2-day webinar kickoff is scheduled for next week. Some of the participants include Danny Gourley Fischer, Amber Webb, and Amy Annis. Outreach has been conducted to the Deans of the colleges and Student Affairs for volunteers.

V. First Hub Update

Furniture arriving at McAfee; work-study students being hired to help staff it. Partnering with the Dean of Students' staff to work on the hub. Working with Marcom to conduct a social media blast, as well as creating material to hand out. EIU 1111 classes will be held adjacent to the hub. Peer promotion and updated maps and signs are planned.

VI. CORE Bylaws

Discussion focused on mission and vision alignment, roles and responsibilities, meeting frequency, voting procedures, membership size, subcommittees, and communication/transparency. Preference for monthly meetings to have a designated day/time, but not specified in the bylaws. Quorum proposed at 13 members. Voting is to be used for formal proposals. Membership concerns include representation and liaison roles (Advancement, Registrar, and Student Accounts). Downsizing was also mentioned. Subcommittees to be formed based on emergent issues. Subcommittees that were proposed to be permanent subcommittees, like Accessibility and Transfer Retention.

VII. EIU 2919 Redesign

EIU 2919 is getting redesigned. Amber Webb is working closely with Kim Ervin from the FDIC to revamp the material and make it more engaging. The Academic Support Center will be opening up this fall semester. It is located in McAfee 1611. Features flexible seating and will have a standing desk. Open Monday-Thursday 8 am to 7 pm and Fridays from 8 am to 4:30 pm. The center will be staffed by certified peer educators and tutors.

VIII. Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, August 14th at 9 am in the Witter's Conference Room in the Booth Library.

~Minutes submitted by Brandy Verdin, Recording Secretary