

**Strategic Plan
Financial Structure Group**

**Minutes for 9/29/14 (3:30pm)
Miller Oval**

Committee Members:

Present: Sean Goodlett, Tim Hilliard, Michael Nosek, Audrey
Pereira, Cathy Daggett, Luis Rosero

Absent: Shylah Maloney (student rep)

Guests: Jay Bry, Jeff McMaster, Aruna Krishnamurthy, Chris Hendry, Emily Austin-
Bruns

I. Call to Order by Sean Goodlett (approximately 3:35)

II. Setting Retention Goals: The Watchword is “Segmentation”

- Technical threshold for retention
 - Sean discussed and will post online the Report to the Board of Higher Education: Task Force on Graduation Rates written by BHE.
 - The technical retention rates gathered in national data (e.g., in the Common Dataset) neglect transfer, undeclared, and other students. This number tracks only first-time, full-time students with a declared major who are retained from spring freshman to fall sophomore year.
 - Fitchburg State is very close to 80%, which is DHE retention rate goal. In AY 13-14 our retention rate was 78%, but over the last five years we have hovered around 75%
 - The group discussed a potential goal to measure transfer student retention and completion rates, and increase these rates annually.
 - Goal: meet a technical threshold of 80% average retention rate consistently by the end of five year plan.

Motion to Approve: Mike Nosek

Second: Luis Rosero

Vote: 8 (in favor); 0 (opposed); 2 (abstention)

- Goal: double Hispanic enrollments (to 18 to 20%) and halve the retention gap between the current five-year average and our aggregate goal of 80% by the end of the five year plan.

Motion to approve: Audrey Pereira

Second: Luis Rosero

Vote: 8 (in favor); 0 (opposed); 2 (abstention)

- Goal: Improve overall graduation rate by 5% by the end of the five year plan.
- Goal: Improve graduation of transfer students as a segment of total student population by 5% by the end of the five year plan. (Note: requires tracking transfer students completion rates and size of transfer class by year.)

Motion to approve: Mike Nosek

Second: Tim Hilliard

Vote: 8 (in favor); 0 (opposed); 2 (abstention)

- Goal: Improve graduation of Hispanic students as a segment of total student population by 5% by the end of the five year plan. (Note: requires tracking Hispanic students' completion rates and number of Hispanic students by year.)

Motion to approve: Audrey Pereira

Second: Luis Rosero

Vote: 8 (in favor); 0 (opposed); 2 (abstention)

- Goal: Improve graduation of "murky middle" students as a segment of total student population by 5% by the end of the five year plan. (Note: requires tracking of "murky middle" students' completion rates and number of "murky middle" students by year.)

Motion to approve: Audrey Pereira

Second: Luis Rosero

Vote: 7 (in favor); 0 (opposed); 0 (abstention)

VI. Other

- If we have time at the next meeting we plan to discuss cost reduction and containment.
- A draft of our white paper is due by October 31.
- Next meeting scheduled for 10/17/2014 at 1:00p.m. in Miller Oval.

VII. Voted to adjourn (5:05) – passed unanimously

Submitted by Audrey Pereira