Retention Committee Meeting, December 6, 2016

Attendees: Rhonda Pennings, Kathi K, Susan, Gary Morris, Beth SW, Laurie E

Absent: John, Karla

Items discussed:

- An Intro to Soc tutor was available to students Dec 2 @ 1 in the H SkyLight Foyer. No students attended. Chandler Brons will do another study session Dec 9. She is working in conjunction with Mr. Gibbons. It was agreed to have her do next semester.
- In discussing the free, no credit A & P review that the LC is creating, it was suggested to offer in the spring (for summer students) as well as in the summer (for fall students). Students would come in 1x and get registered and then complete online. Choice of options available depending on student learning styles and length of time they could devote. Susan will attend advisors meeting and try to advertise.
- At our last meeting, it was questioned if instructor office hours could be listed on webpage. Susan told what she'd discovered from talking with Kristin. It could be done but who would gather hours and how accurate would they be? Where to place? Beth SW said she'd discuss at the Curriculum Committee meeting and perhaps hours could be part of each instructor's syllabus rather than on the web.
- A Smartthinking survey was sent to students to gather data and remind students of ST. Susan will prepare brochure. Beth asked Susan to check into turnaround time when using ST.
- The Committee discussed the dollars allocated for Retention Committee work and how Mark Brown had stressed to Susan that about half the $10,000 allocated to Retention Committee would go toward extra workstudy funding. The Committee questioned this and Susan will talk this point over with John. It was again stressed to make job listings and applying easier and updated as jobs are filled. Laurie questioned who would do this?
- Discussion was held that retention of students could take many forms: academic, financial, instructor willingness to work with students. The committee needs to work in all areas.
- After first semester grades are in, the committee will look at classes with lower grades and what ways we can help.
- Possible new name suggestions for the Learning Center, gathered from staff and students, were reviewed. A majority of the members present voted that the name should be changed. Susan will present top contenders to John for presentation to Alethea.

Assignments prior to January, 2017 meeting:

Susan will arrange for Chandler to tutor Intro to Soc next semester and advertise it for both on-campus and our online students. Also Susan will describe at the Advisors' meeting the A & P Review and Smartthinking and use table tents to convey information to students.

Susan will check turnaround time on questions to Smartthinking.

Beth will take question of instructor office hours to Curriculum Committee.

John will present possible name changes for Learning Center to Alethea.