IU Kokomo’s Road to “Complete in Four”

May 15, 2013
• IU Kokomo developed a series of efforts to help retain students
• These have helped raise our retention rates considerably
• This is coordinated by the Office of Student Success and Advising (OSSA)
In 2009, advising moved to a Professional Advisor model

- Professional Schools already had Professional Advisors – this move primarily affected Arts and Sciences
- Four Advising Centers – divided by academic majors
- All students are assigned an advisor upon admission
- All services are focused on academic excellence, student success and retention – with the goal of graduation

Professional Advising
Advisors:
- Specialize in certain majors but are cross-trained
- Are in our Freshman Learning Communities
- Work set hours in the Student Success Center
- Coordinate and facilitate new student orientation and fall student convocation
- May teach the motivational course
New Student Processes and New Student Orientation and Convocation

- Meet with an advisor for one hour at their first meeting
- Every new student is called during the first week of classes – if a student cannot be reached by phone, then they are sent email or text to call OSSA
- Continue to revamp orientation to make it fun and exciting
  - Five conference style sessions – must be interactive
  - Poll everyone is used in one session
- Have an all new student convocation before fall semester begins
  - Start and end at the Graduation Pavilion – you start here today and will end here when you graduate
  - Motivational speaker
- Starting in fall 2011, students enrolled in the Learning Communities were taught how to use the academic planner and shopping cart.
- Every year the numbers of students using these increase.
- AARs allow students and advisors to monitor progress towards any degree on campus.

**Academic Planner**

**Shopping Cart, and**

**Academic Advising Reports (AARs) in SIS**
• Each student was given a Cougar button with the year of their planned graduation on it
• These were passed out during the freshman convocation and during the first week of classes – if a student did not when he/she was going to graduate, they were encouraged to set a goal
• A “Complete in Four” banner is hung in Alumni Hall (a major traffic zone on campus) to remind students to set this as a goal

Complete in Four – What year will you graduate?
Space designed to work with students to help them define, clarify and achieve their personal and professional goals. It contains:

- Writing Center – offering tutoring in both writing and Spanish
- Informational Technology Training
- English as a Second Language Services (ESL)
- Digital Media Center – multimedia production facility
- Academic Coaching for various groups and majors

Student Success Center
• Faculty and advisors separately meet with juniors and examine:
  • General education requirements and progress
  • Major and Minor requirements
  • Review outside transcripts
  • Connect students and faculty and develop internships, practical learning experiences, graduate school plans or career plans

Junior Checklist
• Workshop course designed to support students in working towards improving their academic performance
• Students work on goal setting, time management, and active learning
• Involves academic advisors, career services, financial aid, peer advisors, workshops in the Student Success Center, and faculty members

Motivation Class – HSS S200
• For students on probation. Students are required to:
  • Attend a PASS workshop (scheduled before classes start each semester)
  • Register for the HSS S200 class
  • Meet with their academic advisor
  • Discuss financial literacy issues

PASS Program
(Partnership for Academic Student Success)
• Students are selected for this program
  • Need a 2.5 GPA
  • Must be recommended by a faculty member
• Peer Advisors:
  • Work with Freshman Learning Communities
  • Work new student orientation and convocation
  • Work in the advising centers – assist students with SIS, Oncourse, One Start, scheduling classes, and so on