Project: Comprehensive New Student Registration, Orientation & Transition Plan

Description:
The development of a comprehensive new student registration, orientation, and transition plan is paramount to university enrollment and retention. The comprehensive plan should include programs for students at every entry point to the university—traditional undergraduate, transfer, graduate, College Credit Plus, online, adult, non-degree programs, etc. Helping students register for classes, orienting them to Wright State, and helping them transition to the Wright State culture is a fundamental component of ensuring the university is on a path for long-term enrollment growth.

Actions:
- Identify who we serve, how we serve them, and when we serve them for registration, orientation, and transition. Complete research on our student body—socioeconomic, academic abilities, etc. Find commonalities and distinctions for each population.
- Benchmark registration, orientation, and transition programs at other universities, find best practices, and incorporate into program planning.
- Use data from state and national associations for best practice and trends.
- Study registration timelines. We need to understand the time it takes for a student to complete the registration process (advising and online registration process). Use this data to develop training tools to help students to avoid registration pitfalls or scheduling errors.
- Survey existing students (all populations) on their perceptions of registration, orientation, and transition programs at WSU. Use the data to formulate new programs.
- Survey faculty and staff on their perceptions of registration, orientation, and transition programs at WSU. Use the data to enrich programs.
- Research the possibility of hosting over-night orientation programs. Assess the student and programmatic benefits, costs, and risks.
- Create registration, orientation, and transition programs (for all student populations) that enable each population to successfully navigate their first year and beyond at WSU.
- Research and identify programmatic outcomes for registration/orientation and orientation/transition programs based upon national best practice and trends.

Milestones:
- Create a Registration, Orientation, and Transition steering council that has members from Enrollment Management, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Student Success, Advising, and others to study current programs, research national best practices, and create new programs based upon data and information received from research.
• Draft new programs for registration, orientation, and transition that build upon information received from prior experiences on campus or online.

• Create a supplemental online registration and orientation program using Bright Space (formerly known as Pilot Live) that provides on-demand assistance to students when they need it. Could be a mobile app.

• Create WebEx presentations for trainings related to academic integrity, diversity, and other programs. There could be quizzes or supplemental questions to gauge knowledge gained from the online training options.

**Metrics:**
• Quantitative Data: Yield, Persistence, and Retention
• Qualitative Data: Student engagement, student surveys related to experience at programs, etc.

**Resources:**
• Multi-year commitment to investment in staffing, financial budget, and time.
• Funding for research and travel to other universities to observe best practice programming in action.
• Funding to attend professional conferences related to registration, orientation, and transition. Conferences are a good way to explore best-practice programs.
• Explore option of increasing the current orientation fee to offset program costs.

**Critical Success Factors:**
• Collaboration among departments across campus
• Right-sized staffing and budget resources

**Suggested Ownership:**
Registration, Orientation, and Transition are multi-disciplinary programs and should have partial ownership by Enrollment Management, Student Affairs, Student Success, Academic Affairs, and Academic Advising.

*This project plan consists of ideas generated by Inter-Unit Collaboration and Student Affairs*