

**Division of Student Affairs 2018 Winter Workshop**  
**Task Force on Undergraduate Retention/Persistence (TOUR)**  
**Presentation Group Discussions**

**Theme - Peer Mentoring**

**Compensation/Incentives**

- What's the financial compensation for peers? Are there other things out there other than money?
- Can we compensate like CAs or a combination of....
- What are the non-financial perks for peers?
- Incentives for Peer Mentors? Cash? Student financial aid? Housing?
- Dedicate more resources to the success of this program
  - Real dollars not shared dollars
- Marketing? Incentives? Structure?
  - From the beginning at orientation; express and value

**Asc@iup Peers**

- New Academic Success Peers (hired under Asc@iup)
- Will the Peer Mentoring program (Asc@iup) impact all first year students or just undeclared/struggling students
- How will the New Academic Success Peers engage students
  - How will we know them? How will be expected to engage with them?

**Additional Peer Groups**

- Get FCA [Fellowship of Christian Athletes] involved in Peer Mentors (they'd love to be involved)
- ECOBIT is working on a program
- Already working w/niche populations (Athletics/military/honors)
- Each dept. identify positive Peer Mentors
- Orientation Leaders – Peer Mentors in Developmental Studies
- FY Experience course each with an assigned peer mentor (required meeting with peers)
- Informal engagement (Res Halls)
- FYEs is a perfect application with Crimson Connect via "paths" with badging, etc.
- 1<sup>st</sup> year leadership series (credit bearing class, academic)

**Training**

- How will peer mentors be trained?
- Manual/guide to ensure accurate and consistent information
- Accurate information is important, how will it be monitored?

## **Implementation**

- Advisors/PMs coordinated efforts under ONE office.
- Will the Office of Retention manage this group of peers?
- Simplify structures/ breakdown the silos
- Create an orientation /FYE office
  - We're disjointed
  - Move orientation/FYE to this office to keep
- Modify the Living Learning model to absorb this structurally in Student Affairs and Academic Affairs.
- Leverage? 1) identify a test pilot, training how to coach, even as a student 2)shift current resources to new office (one roof/ombudsmen – like housing) 3)identify highly involved and dedicated students 4) academic advising/peer mentoring
- Determine cohort specifics
- Approach is important; Forced could have reverse impact

## **Other**

- CBA – should not be a road block! This benefits the entire university!

## **Summary of Peer Mentoring Discussion:**

Discussions focused on potential incentives, financial or otherwise, that would be available to individuals serving as peer mentors. There were some questions regarding how the new Asc@iup peer mentor program would be structured, and the students it would serve. Likewise, examples of current peer mentor programs and ideas for other potential peer mentor initiatives were discussed. Finally, questions and recommendations for training, as well as ideas for how peer mentorship initiatives could be structured and implemented.