Faculty Senate, The University of Montana

Resolution Regarding Starfish Early Alert Progress Surveys

- Whereas, the University of Montana has made student success a focus of its efforts; and,

- Whereas, the "path to completion" is a central component of student success; and,

- Whereas, the university lacks sufficient data, algorithms and other analytical devices to assess the progress of UM students along the path to completion and, therefore, make informed policy decisions on how to improve student admission-retention-graduation along the path; and,

- Whereas, the Starfish-Early Alert software is an effective tool for both improving student performance/progression along the path to success (completion) and for collecting data on the elements that contribute to student success; and,

- Whereas, all UM professional advisors will use Starfish as a common advising mechanism and will proactively intervene with students in response to feedback provided by instructors.

Therefore, Faculty Senate strongly encourages all instructors to use the Starfish Early Alert Progress Surveys for all their undergraduate courses, and in particular at the 200-level and below. The following provisions apply:

1. The university administration shall commit sufficient funding (including sufficient staff) to provide (a) adequate training and informational resources for all users of the Starfish Student Success Platform (students, faculty and staff); and (b) for the collection and analysis of the data generated by Starfish courses with the goal of increasing student success.

2. The administration (with an ASCRC workgroup) shall monitor the implementation, application and performance of the Starfish-Early Alert Program in terms of data collection, processing and interpretation with the goal of improving student success. ASCRC shall regularly report to Faculty Senate regarding the performance of the Starfish-Early Alert Program and related issues.

3. Instructors shall have flexibility to best apply Starfish-EA to their course[1]. However, the instructor (and/or the academic unit) should utilize Starfish-EA so that that collection of essential student success data can occur and any progress/improvement of student performance can be assessed by the administration.

1-The commitment to improved student performance and success should not compromise academic standards, whereby "student success" suggests the highest possible academic standards in a proper balance of instructional rigor with student workload and

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capability. Students should have the opportunity to succeed (or fail) on their own accord. The reputation and standing of the university depends on the performance and quality of our graduates, that is intricately linked to academic standards and quality.