

Retention Committee Report

December 1, 2015 – Faculty Senate

The Retention Committee has been monitoring the latest institutional research data on retention and graduation rates.

Retention Rate

For first-time, full-time freshmen who entered New Mexico Tech in the Fall semester of 2014, the Fall-to-Fall retention rate was 75%, down from 79% in 2013 (Table 1). Until this year, the retention rate had risen every year for the prior 7 years, and the retention rates for freshmen entering in 2012 and 2013 were the highest on record. We note that Fall-to-Fall retention rate for Hispanic students dropped this year to 66%, after trending upward for several years and peaking at 82% for freshmen entering in 2013.

Fall 2014 was the first semester in which new rules were implemented for the lottery scholarship. There were 13 students who entered in Fall 2014 and would have earned the scholarship under the old rules but missed it under the new rules. 4 of these 13 were not retained, possibly contributing about 1% to the drop in the retention rate.

'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14
70.2	72.2	74.8	70.0	68.5	68.3	74.5	68.9	71.7	73.3	73.9	74.4	76.6	78.8	75.1

Table 1. Fall to Fall retention rates (%) for first-time, full-time freshmen by entering cohort.

Graduation Rate

For first-time, full-time freshmen entering New Mexico Tech in the Fall of 2009, the six-year graduation rate was 49%. This rate is back up from 44% in the previous year and is the highest in the last 9 years (Table 2).

'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09
53.6	43.2	48.0	46.0	46.0	47.4	46.2	47.3	44.0	49.0

Table 2. Six-year graduation rates (%) for first-time, full-time freshmen by entering cohort.

Suspensions

At the end of the Spring semester of 2015, 3.6% of the undergraduate students were placed on academic suspension. Since the academic warning process was put in place in Fall 2009, there has been a sustained reduction of about 2% in the number of students placed on academic suspension.