ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF COMMITTEE:
The Retention Committee is a functional team of the Strategic Enrollment Management Executive Council (SEMEC).

COMMITTEE CHARGE:
The functional team's charge is to assist SEMEC in carrying out its’ charge, functional teams were established to help address specific pieces of the strategic enrollment management initiative.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:
The retention committee will make formal recommendations to the strategic enrollment management executive council. These recommendations will be considered in the overall comprehensive strategic enrollment management plan. The strategic enrollment management plan will assist the university in developing the overall strategic plan as it relates to student enrollment and student success initiatives and objectives.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:
Melissa Becker, Brian Fehler, Denise Groves, Michael Haynes, Gilbert Hinga, Charlie Howard, Rusty Jergins, Dennis Jones, Barry Lambert, Lisa Lewis, Betty Murray, Sundararajan Sankar, Dwayne Snider Elizabeth Wallace

PROJECT TIMELINE: Retention Project Progress and Outlook
Originally, the retention project was to be conducted solely in phase three of the overall Tarleton/Noel-Levitz enrollment management project, however, we capitalized on Dr. Lewis Sanborne’s project lead role and began the retention project much sooner.

Seven Focus Areas
The retention initiative was initially organized around seven primary areas. A brief review of each follows.

Term to Term Bridge: We are making progress on the project to be more intentional with the way we bridge students from the current term to the next. The clearest accomplishment to date is the proposal to move up registration earlier in the semester, to shrink the time allowed for each class to register, and then to allow more time post-registration for outreach to students who are eligible to enroll but have not.

Re-Recruitment: The re-recruitment group has developed a number of recommendations, such as departments contacting their major advisees if the students do not return to Tarleton. Departments can make reasonable adjustments.
Data Committee: The data committee focused on issues related to the Predictive Model for Retention. As the work is given to the new Texas A&M System metrics, the work of this group will become increasingly important.

Transitions Council: The most comprehensive charge belongs to the transitions council. The 2012 plan calls for seven (7) one-day orientation events with the first event scheduled for April (Scholars), three summer Duck Camps and the pre-immersion week.

Transfer Students: A summary on the recommendations from this group is not available at this time.

Communications: The communications committee has become an action committee; working to keep the entire TSU community informed about the retention progress and the roles that all play in moving the key metrics in the right direction.

Faculty Innovation: This task is being dropped from the Retention Committee’s purview and shifting to Dr. Baker’s Center for Instructional Innovation group. Note below there are three initiatives that need faculty support that are not particularly successful.

Advising: (an 8th item) With the advent of the Academic Advising Council, advising has a fresh group to focus on the program.

Three initiatives not garnering engagement and participation at this time:
During our exploration we identified three tasks that have not gained the kind of traction needed at Tarleton:
- Roster Verification
- Early Alert
- Mid-Term Grades
These tasks require full faculty engagement and participation. Our gravest concern is for the classes where a mid-term is the first assessment tool (even in primarily first year student classes) and the exam is not returned until after the last day to drop classes. While this approach may truly be rare, the general low rate of faculty participation in these three initiatives suggests we do not have a unified commitment to retention. The classroom is the primary place where Tarleton’s core mission is fulfilled.

FUTURE WORK
Predictive Model for Retention - We are making progress on completing the data transmission and preparation process. The committee is hopeful Noel-Levitz can deliver the predictive model for approval prior to the January 26-27 planning workshops.


Retention visit 9 – Implementation support; progress review; outcomes measurement; scheduled April 2012

Retention visits 10-11 – We will plan collaboratively the focus of all consultations and the nature of our ongoing work together, including predictive model revision in spring 2012; scheduled July 2012

Predictive Model for Retention and refresh Post-census; scheduled October 2012

WEBSITE: http://www.tarleton.edu/semec/