****2019-2020 Student Affairs Retention Report

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# Executive Summary

## Purpose

This report provides an examination of retention for students engaged in Student Affairs programs and services. The purpose of this report is to:

* document the relationship between student engagement in student affairs programs and services and student retention
* identify opportunities to inform program and service changes to improve student access and success
* to support the MU Strategic Plan goal to increase FTC retention to 93% by 2023.

## Key Findings

* Participation in extracurricular activities, which include student organizations, Fraternity and Sorority Life, student government, Mizzou Alternative Breaks, club sports, Summer Welcome Leaders, and Involvement Ambassadors, is associated with higher retention for FTC freshmen, with 93.2% of involved students returning the following fall, versus 89.1% for all FTCs.
* This trend holds for incoming transfer students and other continuing undergraduates.
* Among students who lived in residence halls in the 2019-20 academic year, FTC freshmen have higher retention (89.7% in halls versus 81.3% not living in halls), as do entering transfer students (89.9% in halls versus 75.9% not in halls).
* Students who participated in FIGs have higher retention than students who did not participate. This holds among FTC freshmen (90.7% for FIG participants versus 88.8% for non-participants) and continuing undergraduates (90.7% for those who had ever been in a FIG versus 86.7% for non-participants). Among FTC freshmen, under-represented minority students (URM) who participate in FIGs have higher retention (88.5%) than non-FIG-participants (84.7%). Similarly, first-generation FTCs who participate in FIGs have higher retention than non-FIG-participants (85.6% versus 82.5%).
* Students who are actively registered with the Disability Center and who have disability accommodations have retention rates that are very similar to or slightly exceeding campus rates. This finding is suggestive that disability accommodations are effective at diminishing the effect of disability on academic functioning and providing students with equal access to courses and programs through the university.
* Students who are active fraternity or sorority members have higher retention across all cohorts. Among FTC freshmen, FSL members have 94.3% retention versus 86.6% for non-members. For entering transfer students, retention is 90.4% for FSL members versus 76.4% for non-members, and for continuing undergraduates, the rates are 96.4% for FSL members versus 83.7% for non-members.
* Among under-represented minority students (URM), students who participate in Club Sports, student organizations, campus activities, and Welcome Week events have higher retention than students who do not participate in Club Sports for all cohorts (FTC freshmen, entering transfer students, and continuing undergraduates).
* A majority of undergraduate students (64.3%) visit the MizzouRec Center, including 86.0% of FTC freshmen. Students who visit the MizzouRec have higher retention than students who do not visit (91.3% versus 90.2% overall, and 90.2% versus 82.3% for FTC freshmen).

## Recommendations

* Involvement in Student Affairs programs and services is correlated with student success and should be encouraged for undergraduate students.