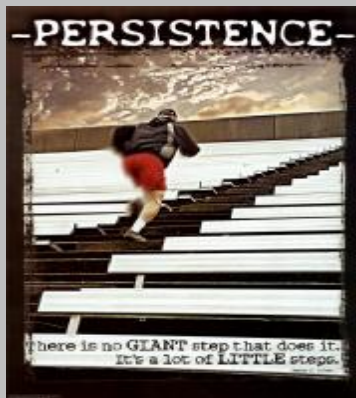




Special Edition  
New Faculty Program  
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UNO Campus Resources



Student Persistence and Recovery Initiatives (SPRI)  
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# ESPRIT de corps\*

## Student Persistence (SPRI) Newsletter

Welcome to UNO and the beginning of the academic year. We are proud to have you as new members of our team, especially since you join us to help celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To kick things off, we have put together this inaugural issue of the SPRI Faculty Newsletter as an important step in our commitment to engage faculty in discussion, planning, and decision-making about student retention here at UNO. We hope this newsletter will serve as a communications tool to keep you in touch with us and with each other as well. But you're probably asking:

### "What is SPRI?"

**Let us introduce ourselves!** The **Task Force for Student Persistence and Recovery Initiatives (SPRI)** is a campus-wide body, composed of twenty-five faculty members, administrators, staff, and students, responsible for investigating trends in student attrition and recommending ways to increase student persistence at UNO. Student persistence is one of the most important issues currently facing the University of New Orleans; it figures prominently in our *Strategic Plan 2007-2010*, as well as in our *Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)*. As is the case in many urban public universities, our students have spotty enrollment habits; they register for a semester or two, then drop out or stop out for a time, then return again. In fact, one could argue that our students **are** persistent; they just take their time completing their degrees. The challenge for the SPRI Task Force is to find ways to help students stay in

school in continuous registration, be successful, and then go on with the rest of their lives, UNO diploma proudly in hand.

### Facts about student persistence at UNO

Typically we lose 32% of our freshman class from one fall to the next, about one third of which, or 11%, is due to academic failure. By year two only 50% of a freshman cohort remains at UNO in continuous registration, although many drop in and out over several years. There are numerous reasons why students decide not to continue, and many of those reasons are beyond our control. But for those reasons that are within our control we, as an institution and as a faculty,

must do a better job of keeping our students engaged and on track. Low retention rates result in financial difficulties across the campus spectrum, but

they also engage our professional pride and exhort us to meet the challenge and make improvements. This is not the job of one person or of one sector of the university, but a collaborative effort of all.

### Predictors of Student success

National surveys such as those conducted by Noel-Levitz, a respected educational consulting firm, tell us that, for students at four-year public universities who have good persistence records, the top two reasons cited by them for their success are academic advising and instructional effectiveness at their institutions. This is a strong message which we, as faculty, need to take to heart.

**Welcome New UNO Faculty!**

\*esprit de corps (ɛsprit də kɔʁ) [corps body] French phraseology: The regard entertained by the members of a body for the honor and interests of the body as a whole, and of each other as belonging to it.

## Role of faculty

As faculty we have many responsibilities. We are responsible for the quality of our curriculum, the integrity of our academic standards, and the inherent value of a UNO degree. We are also responsible for seeing that we meet our obligations to the academy and the greater community by contributing to the knowledge base that society depends on us for. But ULTIMATELY, in our two vital roles as educators and advisors, we wield a great deal of power and influence over the success of our students and are responsible for seeing them through to the successful completion of their academic careers.

You are our new faculty who will usher us into and guide us through a new phase of our next 50 years. It is your scholarship, your teaching, your creativity, your commitment to students, and your "esprit de corps" that will shape what the University of New Orleans will become for the next generations of students.

**We need your help in student retention!**

★ **You are the key to student persistence!**

**Increased persistence does not mean lowering standards.**

### Faculty as educators

Here are some of the things we can do to respond to the needs and expectations of our students.

- ✓ Make student persistence a priority
- ✓ Focus on student learning
- ✓ Be a partner in your students' success: encourage them and give prompt and constructive feedback
- ✓ Incorporate active learning techniques and adapt methods for different learning styles
- ✓ Intervene early with students in trouble: the window of opportunity is small and occurs early in the semester

### Faculty as advisors

At UNO all freshmen must be advised by faculty before being allowed to register. Typically, the choices of courses for freshmen are somewhat limited and so the activity of advising often becomes that of "filling out a schedule." **Be an advisor, not just a "schedule filler"!**

- ✓ Be a resource for your students
- ✓ Connect with students as individuals
- ✓ Engage students in discussing their future
- ✓ Encourage involvement in out-of-class learning
- ✓ Make appropriate referrals to student services

**What can we do?**

#### Disability Services

The ODS provides for the needs of enrolled or admitted students who have disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). **120 Earl K. Long Library (LIB)**  
(504) 280-7284 Voice/TTD

#### Financial Aid

The goal of our office is to assist students who have difficulty paying the costs incurred while attending college.

**1005 Administration Bldg. (AD)**  
(504) 280-6603

#### International Students and Scholars

The OISS provides comprehensive immigration advising, programming, and support services to all international students and faculty and their dependents.

**159 Business Administration Bldg (BA)**  
(504) 280-6021

#### Learning Resource Center

The LRC provides tutoring for English, Math, Sciences and some Liberal Arts

courses. **334 Liberal Arts Building (LA)**  
(504) 280-7053

**UNO Campus Resources**

#### Office of Career Development

**144 Milneburg Hall**  
(504) 280-6225

#### Personal Counseling & Career Counseling

Counseling Services meets the needs of UNO students in their individual personal and career development.

**112 Human Performance Center (HPC)**  
(504) 280-6683

#### Student Health Services

**134 Health Performance Center (HPC)**  
(504) 280-7446

#### University Success Program (UNIV)

UNIV1001 course assists incoming UNO students in making a smooth transition to university life.

**334 Liberal Arts Building (LA)/122 Education Building (ED)**  
(504) 280-7053 / (504) 280-7114

**Student Support Services (SSS)** A federally-funded program that offers support services to qualified students (low income, first generation college, students with disabilities)

**421 Bienville Hall**  
(504)280-5565

#### College of Business Administration

**419 Kirschman Hall (KH)**  
504-280-6241

#### College of Education and Human Development

**242 Bicentennial Education Building (ED)**  
(504) 280-6028

#### College of Engineering

**910 Engineering Building (EN)**  
(504) 280-6328

#### College of Liberal Arts

**273 Milneburg Hall (MH)**  
(504) 280-6266

#### College of Sciences

**1100 Science Bldg (SC)**  
(504) 280-6303

#### Metropolitan College

**124 Education Building (ED)**  
(504)280-7100

#### Bachelor of General Studies (BGS)

**Metropolitan College**  
**122 Education Building (ED)**  
(504)280-6566

#### Earl K. Long Library

**Administrative Offices**  
**404 Library (LIB)**

Quotes

"The single best predictor of student satisfaction with college is the degree to which they perceive the college environment to be supportive of their academic and social needs." National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

Simple Equation for Persistence

Student satisfaction = Student success = Student persistence