

## Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

February 9th, 2012

8:15-9:15 AM

**Members Present:** Harvest Collier, Cecilia Elmore, Stephanie Fitch, Patty Frisbee, Larry Gragg, Deanne Jackson, Katie Jackson, Rance Larsen, Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Will Perkins, Kristi Schulte, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Nangai Yang, Summer Young.

**Members Absent:** Edna Grover-Bisker, Tyrone Davidson, Brooke Durbin, Thulasi Kumar, Stephen Raper, Carol Smith, Ramya Thiagarajan.

### Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the February 9th, 2012 meeting. A motion was made (Cecilia Elmore) and seconded (Will Perkins) to approve the minutes with one correction.

#### I. Old Business

- a. No old business.

#### II. New Business

##### a. Retention Subcommittee Updates (Math and A2S Subcommittee has presented at earlier meetings)

The Student Persistence Subcommittee has not met per Larry Gragg (chair person) and is currently waiting on the final report from Noel Levitz on financial aid leveraging (The final report was given to Chancellor Wray on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012). Harvest Collier talked with Kumar Thulasi and Kumar will be looking into a survey tool to gauge student persistence.

Per Lynn Stichnote (chair person) the Financial Aid Subcommittee has yet to meet as well (waiting on the final report from Noel Levitz as well as the campus task force summary). There are two items to look at from the Noel Levitz report: 1. Need based aid (we need to look at implementing need based grants) and 2. Improving the financial aid communication plan (i.e. making families more aware of what is available, getting students to take responsibility, etc).

Scott Miller's group (Fit in S&T Environment) has met one time (01/20/12) to brainstorm. Most of the discussion was directed toward the non engineering students. There were several ideas that were brought to the table. Some of those were:

- Implementing a non-STEM grad school fair and/or non engineering career fair
- Co-op and internships for non engineering students
- Explore the idea of student to student mentoring program over the course of a student's career here at S&T.
- Gather data on students that succeed here but take longer to do so (what traits did they have, what were changes they went through)
- Implement a student success center (similar to Mizzou career.missouri.edu)
- Promote career exploration for both engineering and non engineering majors in summer campus and our partner schools presentations

Alternate Majors Promotion subcommittee, chaired by Rance Larsen, has met once. The objective of this subcommittee is to reduce attrition and increase retention by raising awareness of the diversity of majors and career paths found at S&T. There are several challenges which the subcommittee shared such as:

- Campus culture
- Students who leave because they can get their education in a less strenuous environment
- Students undecided about their major and not knowledgeable of other majors on campus
- Process for major change is not widely known

Larry Gragg noted that many of the subcommittees talk about the importance of the 101 courses students take their first semester. Laura Stoll also commented on another common theme among the subcommittees is the student success center. A “one stop shop” for students to find information they need. Larry Gragg summarized what we know and that is climate, environment, fit and academic preparation are all very important pieces to student success.

**b. Discussion of Retention Annual Report**

The annual report needs to be prepared by the end of the semester (May 2012) to present to Chancellor Schrader.

**c. Update of President Wolfe’s visit**

President Wolfe listened to everyone’s concern while visiting S&T campus. Harvest Collier shared with the retention group that Wolfe has asked Harvest to communicate our retention/student success needs to him.

**III. Next Meeting:** February 23, 2012.

**IV.** The meeting was adjourned.