

MINUTES

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

March 22, 2012

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Scott Miller, Edna Grover-Bisker, Tyrone Davidson, Cecilia Elmore, Stephanie Fitch, Patty Frisbee, Larry Gragg, Deanne Jackson, Katie Jackson, Rachel Morris, Will Perkins, Kristi Schulti, Carol Smith, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote, Nangai Yang, Summer Young.

Members Absent:, Brooke Durbin, Thulasi Kumar, Rance Larsen, Stephen Raper, Laura Stoll, Ramya Thiagarajan.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the March 8th, 2012 meeting. A motion was made (Cecilia Elmore) and seconded (Larry Gragg) to approve the minutes with no corrections.

I. Old Business

- a. No old business.

II. New Business

- a. We will ask Chancellor Schrader to attend either May 3rd or May 17th Retention Committee meeting in order to present the Annual Retention Report to her.
- b. Harvest Collier asked who will present at next committee meeting. All subcommittees have presented once. It was decided to discuss the 101 courses.
- c. Student Financial Assistance subcommittee report-Lynn Stichnote reported

Lynn handed out the subcommittees meeting minutes from their March 16th meeting.

There are several recommendations that the subcommittee is making after receiving the final report from Noel Levitz in December of 2011 that has already been presented to the Retention Committee.

- Campus Strategic plan should incorporate goals for sufficient merit-based funds to address drop in yield (decline in recruitment) for high ability students
- Campus Strategic plan should incorporate goals for sufficient need-based institutional grant and work funds to improve retention (estimate \$2,200,000 in available funds, not \$2,200,000 raised in endowments).
- Student Financial Assistance, Undergraduate Studies and Academic units (Advisors) develop collaborative strategies to identify high risk students for direct, personal intervention

There are more detailed recommendations in the subcommittee meeting minutes Lynn distributed.

The reasons the subcommittee are making these recommendations is due to:

- S&T yield dropped for the high ability students who can achieve retention goals. S&T retention is highest for high ability
- Noel Levitz has statistically significant data that merit-based aid could help reverse the downward trend in yield of high ability students; more high ability students increase retention
- Noel Levitz has statistically significant data that institutional need-based aid could help improve retention of high/moderate need students, whose retention rates are below 80%
- The S&T discount rate, which is total gift aid from the university divided by total tuition, cannot go up. The campus does not have willingness or ability to increase GO aid
- Private sources are the only practical solution to increase aid

After the presentation, Larry Gragg mentioned that the 90% first year retention rate is a distraction. We should have implemented incremental increases. Harvest Collier stated it would be worth reconsidering the goal set by former chancellor Carney. He also stated that the economic downturn was not an issue when the goal was set to 90%.

III. Next Meeting: April 5th, 2012. 101 Courses will be discussed.

IV. The meeting was adjourned.