

# MINUTES

## Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

March 8, 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, Rance Larsen, Rachel Morris, Kristi Schulti, Carol Smith, Lynn Stichnote, Nangai Yang, Summer Young.

**Members Absent:**, Brooke Durbin, Thulasi Kumar, Will Perkins, Stephen Raper, Brad Starbuck, Laura Stoll, Ramya Thiagarajan.

### Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the February 23rd, 2012 meeting. A motion was made (Cecilia Elmore) and seconded (Tyrone Davidson) to approve the minutes with three corrections.

#### I. Old Business

- a. No old business.

#### II. New Business

- a. Student Persistence subcommittee report-Larry Gragg reported Dr. Gragg handed out two handouts. One is an article from The Chronicle on graduation rates. The findings from that article are that there are factors beyond our control:
  - We don't know what kind of obligations the students have
  - We have no control over their academic preparation.There are things that we can control as a campus:
  - Quality of instruction in general education courses (101 courses). The literature the subcommittee presented focused on calculus and physics. 101 courses are deliberately meant to help students become engaged and gain an understanding of requirements to be successful per Harvest Collier.
  - Quality of advising: student compared Mizzou to S&T. Hard to get in to see an advisor at Mizzou but had a very personal experience at S&T in the History department.
  - Class size: According to the literature, the larger the class size, the harder to retain the students.
  - Faculty and staff interaction with students: We are surrogate parent/coach. Students need the intense relationships with different people on campus. Not all students need this, but a large amount. Sometimes the staff interaction is more important than the faculty (per the literature). Do the students feel they belong to this institution (social isolation)? Kristi stated that science and engineering students feel they found a home. Other students feel intimidated by the size of the campus. Campus can sometimes be larger than their hometown. The Fit subcommittee is struggling with "a sense of academic isolation". Do they feel comfortable? Some students that have been told for years that they are good in science and math come here and realize that they are not as good as they

thought. In high school they were told what notes to take and when (Scott Miller). Kristi stated a lot of students don't know how to deal with being "average" once they get to campus, it becomes a personal crisis.

- b. Cecilia Elmore spoke about the Campus Climate Survey going live on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. The survey will focus around diversity and a comfortable environment on campus. The survey is intended for students, faculty and staff and consists of 110 questions. Those that complete the survey will be entered into a drawing for an iPad 3.
- c. Harvest Collier mentioned that the Annual Retention report will be presented to Chancellor Schrader in May.

**III. Next Meeting:** March 22nd, 2012. Financial Assistance subcommittee will present.

**IV.** The meeting was adjourned.