

# MINUTES

## Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

May 17th, 2012

8:15-9:15 AM

**Members Present:** Harvest Collier, Edna Grover-Bisker, Tyrone Davidson, Cecilia Elmore, Patty Frisbee, Deanne Jackson, Katie Jackson, Rachel Morris, Carol Smith, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Nangai Yang.

**Members Absent:** Scott Miller, Brooke Durbin, Stephanie Fitch, Larry Gragg, Thulasi Kumar, Rance Larsen, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte, Ramya Thiagarajan, Summer Young.

### I. Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the May 3rd, 2012 meeting. A motion was made (Carol Smith) and seconded (Tyrone Davidson) to approve the minutes with 4 corrections.

### II. Old Business

#### a. Math subcommittee report discussion

Dr. Collier gave a few suggestions to subcommittee:

1. LEAD with incentives for student participation (Dr. Bieniek has data to prove that LEAD works). It takes just one person to champion the idea (per Carol Smith).
2. Put the best instructors in front of those entry level classes.
3. Emphasize instruction based on math placement exam.
4. Show financial impact of failed students (How much revenue do we lose when students do not return, student fail and students fail math).

Positive note: can show how much revenue comes in when we save one student (enough to hire GTA)-per Lynn Stichnote.

5. Offer remedial math-the question was raised if the Math 3 syllabus has remedial material in it. Psychological factors have to be looked at. Use On Course material to address these courses (HC). We know our students, we know their needs....we need to get the chancellor/provost to work with Dr. Hall to start the change (Patty Frisbee explained that this will be a culture change).  
Laura Stoll said we need to be asking: "What is our "blue sky"? We need to bring someone to campus, from the outside, that has had success in math courses for at least a semester. We need to change the campus culture.

Nangai Yang mentioned that MIT has an online course for instructors teaching math 2 that gives instruction for instructors.

Harvest Collier remembered from the last Retention Committee meeting that Stephanie Fitch noted there are new/young instructors in Math that have ideas that she feels will help. Paul Runnion is one of the new instructors.

Tyrone Davidson has noticed that students bringing in math courses with a B from a community college is a comparable to a C on S&T campus. They are passing. We need to look at what the community colleges are teaching and maybe adapt some of their principles.

The committee thought that (after looking at ACT/math grade data that Rachel Morris presented) maybe adding the high schools where the students came from and high school GPA would show some correlation. Also, looking at ACT math sub scores to see if there's any difference from the composite score and how it relates to math grades. Rachel has done this and there is not a noticeable difference when looking at HS GPA and ACT's math . There are no "pockets" of schools that stand out as producing low performing students.

Laura Stoll stated that ACT scores are not nationally used to determine college readiness.

### **III. New Business**

- a. Final presentations from subcommittees need to be turned in to Rachel as soon as possible.  
Laura Stoll will do Rance's subcommittee "alternate majors"

### **IV. Announcements**

None

### **V. Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 31st, 2012 at 8:15 am.

Laura Stoll will present on the Alternate Majors subcommittee.  
The meeting was adjourned.