

MINUTES

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

June 30, 2011

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Tyrone Davidson, Cecilia Elmore, Anna Gaw, Larry Gragg, Mary Kirgan, Rance Larsen, Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Brad Starbuck, Deanne Jackson (for Laura Stoll).

Members Absent: : Jay Goff, Katie Jackson, Thulasi Kumar, Lea-Ann Morton, Will Perkins, Stephen Raper, Stephanie Rostad, Kristi Schulte, Michael Schwartz, Carol Smith, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Summer Young

Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the June 2, 2011 meeting. A motion was made (Cecilia Elmore) and seconded (Mary Kirgan) to approve the minutes. Corrections made to the minutes: III. New Business, change the word limiting to limited. IV. Add the month (June)

I. Old Business

- a. Harvest Collier asked the CIRP data conversation be held over until August when everyone can have a chance to review the findings again.

II. New Business

- a. Academic Forgiveness Policy (AFP)

Harvest Collier reviewed what was discussed at the June 2nd meeting concerning AFP. Scott Miller stated that he's still trying to figure out how to word it as to what the policy is intended to do. The second open bullet under Eligibility and the last bullet under Conditions are of concern to Scott Miller. Larry Gragg pointed out that the work "four" in the first bullet under Eligibility should be highlighted in some way to catch attention. Mary Kirgan asked about taking out the 1st closed bullet under Eligibility and it was discussed that it needs to stay for financial reasons. Anna Gaw said non-degree will be affected if a department won't accept the student. Discussion then turned to the 12 credit hours listed under eligibility. Mary Kirgan asked what type of classes were required. Deanne Jackson asked if 12 hours comes under non-degree or degree. A question came up as to if a student could transfer in 12 credit hours. Deanne stated that they could not transfer in credit hours. Larry Gragg asked Scott Miller if getting rid of the second open bullet would help with the wording. Harvest Collier asked if making these few modifications in the policy would be enough to pass thru faculty senate. Mary Kirgan said yes and Scott Miller said he was comfortable with the changes. Mary Kirgan suggested striking the word "either" from the third closed bullet under Eligibility. Mary Kirgan asked the question will the academic forgiveness policy apply if a student wanted to be admitted under psychology to receive academic forgiveness and then later change their major again. Harvest Collier said it would. Anna Gaw followed up with the fact that she sees students trying to "beat the system" all the time, but four years is a long time to come back. That more than likely they would have matured.

Revisions to be made to the policy:

1. Bold and italicize the word “four” in the first bullet under Eligibility
2. Delete second open bullet under Eligibility
3. Strike the word “either” from the third bullet under Eligibility and move the first open bullet after “Student’s must...”
4. Under Conditions, revise the last bullet to read “Only student who are readmitted to a degree program at the undergraduate level at Missouri University of Science and Technology are eligible to apply for forgiveness”.

Larry Gragg moved the approval of the revised copy and Anna Gaw seconded. Once revisions are made, Scott Miller will present the policy at the next RP&A meeting.

b. Annual Retention Report Draft discussion

Harvest Collier reminded the committee how the annual report is presented to the Chancellor. With the changes happening in the Chancellor’s office there are two things that we need to remember/consider.

1. The chancellor appoints the committee.
2. The chancellor holds the committee responsible

There have been no new announcements naming an interim chancellor. Interim president Owens will make an announcement in July.

Harvest opened it up for discussion. Larry Gragg says that whoever is in the chancellor position will still need see the presentation because the retention committee will still need to explain themselves. Harvest stated that the changes in the chancellor’s office will not change how we, as a committee, do things. Brad Starbuck suggested that if the interim chancellor is someone that is familiar with the campus, then yes, we should present to them. If they are not familiar with campus, then that is another situation. Mary Kirgan suggested the chancellor should get a copy but we will explain the report to the interim. Scott Miller suggested presenting it and emailing the report to the chancellor’s office, not just the chancellor.

Larry Gragg suggested a revision to page 4 of the draft in the second paragraph under retention and graduation rates. Add a sentence after the 83 to 86% retention rate to explain the drop from 88% in FS2009 to 86% in FS2010.

The discussion turned to reasoning behind why first year students do not return. Undergraduate Studies will look into the suggestion of varsity athletes not returning when coaching staff changes. Some members on the committee have heard of issues a few years ago within the student diversity office and students not feeling welcome in that environment. Affordability and academic scholarships are another avenue to look into. The committee is looking for idea on ways to change students’ expectations early in their college career.

We will approve the annual retention report draft via email.

- III. **Next Meeting:** We will resume our regular meeting schedule after the fall semester 2011 begins
- IV. The meeting was adjourned.