

MINUTES

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

September 8, 2011

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Edna Grover-Bisker, Cecilia Elmore, Anna Gaw, Larry Gragg, Deanne Jackson, Katie Jackson, Rance Larsen, Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Carol Smith, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Ramya Thiagarajan, Summer Young.

Members Absent: Tyrone Davidson, Brooke Durbin, Thulasi Kumar, Will Perkins, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte.

Guest Member: Stephanie Fitch.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the June 30, 2011 meeting. A motion was made (Cecilia Elmore) and seconded (Anna Gaw) to approve the minutes. Corrections made to the minutes: II. New Business: a. change "work" to "word" (4th line), Revisions to Policy a.1.3 "Student's must" change to "Students must", a.1.4 "Only student" change to "Only students", b. last paragraph on last line change "idea" to "ideas".

I. Old Business

- a. Academic Forgiveness Policy (AFP): Dr. Miller stated he will send an email to get the policy added to the agenda for RP&A, which will meet in the 2nd week of October. He will work to get the AFP added to the Faculty Senate agenda by the end of the calendar year.
- b. Annual Retention Report Draft discussion: Dr. Collier asked that each subcommittee to give a brief presentation from the draft to the chancellor at the November 17th meeting. He received no objections. There will be no additional changes made to the Annual Retention Report Draft. We will provide the report to the chancellor. Lynn Stichnote made a motion to approve the report as written and Laura Stoll seconded it. Deanne Jackson asked for a copy of the report, as she is new to the committee.

II. New Business

- a. 1st and 2nd year retention efforts: Carol Smith and Summer Young were asked to present their findings of the 1st and 2nd year non returning survey. Both provided "snapshot" handouts with their survey results summarized.

Preliminary 1st year retention looks to have decreased by 5% since fall semester 2009. We will know definitively by 4th week. Laura Stoll stated that there is a nationwide decrease in 4 year public institution retention and an increase in the 2 year public institutions. More than likely it was stated to be due to the economy. ACT scores for FTC S&T students to remain high. There is a need to find more quantitative measures of the impact of the economy on student retention. Harvest Collier passed out a handout that revealed we are in the ballpark in retention with our TRU comparators. Rance Larsen announced that the Admissions office has changed the communications that are sent to parents. They are gearing their

communications towards making parents “partners”. Laura Stoll announced that one quarter of our new freshmen have had their parents sign the FERPA waiver. This process has been encouraged at all PRO sessions and Open Houses. According to Katie Jackson, prior to a student enrolling, Academic Affairs captures parent email off of the applications and puts that information into Google Group. Lynn brought up a report on SFA leveraging that will look at historical data. There will be more information in the coming weeks. Carol asked if she could have the students’ entry level math information on the output of the COGNOS report for non returning students. A request will be made to IT by Deanne Jackson. Stephanie Fitch asked if she could get a copy of the list. Scholarship appeals happen mid June. Lynn Stichnote asked Carol (as she calls non returning students) if the question of financial assistance is brought up, to direct them to her office. The question of where students are going/transferring was brought up by Lynn Stichnote and Cecilia Elmore. Carol stated Junior Colleges. Laura Stoll related that FSR (Former Student Returning) have increased but they have not tracked those in the past, but would be a good idea to start. Larry Gragg played the role of the chancellor asking the “hard questions” and how will we answer.

Summer Young discussed her 2nd year retention efforts. Her report shows that 2nd year retention has gained a percentage point on top of recouping the 1st year loss. Response rates for 2nd – 3rd year are much lower. The students she did contact did not cite financial as a reason for not returning, but a change of major.

Both Carol Smith and Summer Young reported that if the non returning student was an engineering student, they would recommend the university to other students. If they were not engineering, they would not recommend the university to other students.

- b. Lynn Stichnote announced the Financial Aid 101 sessions that Tracy Wilson will be conducted. To increase student participation, Lynn asked that academic areas add extra credit for students that attend the sessions. September 14th is the first session.

III. Next Meeting: Thursday, September 22, 2011 in Silver & Gold.

IV. The meeting was adjourned.