

MINUTES

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

September 22, 2011

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Tyrone Davidson, Anna Gaw, Larry Gragg, Deanne Jackson, Katie Jackson, Rance Larsen, Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Will Perkins, Kristi Schulte, Carol Smith, Laura Stoll

Members Absent: : Edna Grover-Bisker, Brooke Durbin, Cecilia Elmore, Thulasi Kumar, Stephen Raper, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote, Ramya Thiagarajan, Summer Young

Guest Member: Stephanie Fitch.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the September 8, 2011 meeting. A motion was made (Larry Gragg) and seconded (Laura Stoll) to accept the minutes as corrected. The minutes was approved by committee voice vote.

I. Old Business

- a. **Approval of Annual Retention Committee Report:** The Retention Committee formally adopted the annual committee report to the Chancellor with a motion (Katie Jackson) and seconded (Kristi Schulte).
- b. **Retention Update:** The committee briefly discussed the preparation of the official campus retention report that will be provided by the Institutional Research and Assessment office. Comments were offered for interest in the report reflecting student demographics, non-STEM majors, scholarships, and diversity. It was acknowledged that the report would not be available until student enrollment data was frozen after the 4th week of the semester.

The committee members briefly discussed the “Access to Success” commitment that Missouri S&T has made along with the other UM System campuses to reduce the gap for access to education for pell-eligible and underrepresented minority students by one-half. Concerns were expressed about addressing financial need, semester academic performance, first-generation status, academic unpreparedness, fit in the S&T community, realistic expectations, etc., factors that will have an impact on their success.

A brief discussion was conducted on the consideration of “persistence” (as compared to retention) as a more definitive thematic focus for pursuing student success efforts. Topics including commitment to earn the degree, connection with the S&T community, fit in the university environment, maturity development, and need-based financial aid were mentioned as critical areas to consider addressing to assist student success.

- c. **Suggested Retention Subcommittees:** The committee discussed potential subcommittees to establish for this academic year. The suggestions included financial aid, academic performance, pre-college preparation, fit in the S&T community, and alternative majors promotion. The assignment of members to subcommittees will be considered at the next committee meeting.

II. **New Business**

- a. **FE 10 Initiative Update:** Scott Miller provided a brief update on the redesign of the freshman engineering introductory FE 10 course. He related that smaller groups of students (approximately 50) meet every other week with specific assignments to complete during the weeks that the groups don't meet. A few large sessions (approximately 300 students) will meet for special presentations. It was noted that some student tended to forget their bi-weekly meetings.
- b. **Noel-Levitz Webinar on Financial Leveraging Update:** Laura Stoll and Lynn Stichnote related S&T's effort to conduct an assessment related to financial aid leveraging in order to inform strategies for providing financial aid to S&T students. Additional comments were shared about the importance of factors that influence student college attendance including cost, institution 1st choice, and ability/willingness of families to pay. Lynn Stichnote related the establishment of the Campus Financial Aid Task Force that is serving to identify and address student financial assistance priorities.
- c. **Intrusive Intervention In Chemistry and History Update:** This report was postponed until the next committee meeting.

III. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 6, 2011 in Silver & Gold.

IV. The meeting was adjourned.