

# MINUTES

## Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

January 12, 2012

8:15-9:15 AM

**Members Present:** Harvest Collier, Tyrone Davidson, Cecilia Elmore, Stephanie Fitch, Patty Frisbee, Larry Gragg, Deanne Jackson, Katie Jackson, Rachel Morris, Will Perkins, Stephen Raper, Brad Starbuck, Kristi Schulte, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Nangai Yang.

**Members Absent:** Scott Miller, Edna Grover-Bisker, Brooke Durbin, Thulasi Kumar, Rance Larsen, Carol Smith, Ramya Thiagarajan, Summer Young.

### Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the December 15th, 2011 meeting. A motion was made (Cecilia Elmore) and seconded (Stephen Raper) to approve the minutes with 1 correction.

#### I. Old Business

- a. No old business.

#### II. New Business

##### a. Insight/Summary from Noel Levitz

Lynn Stichnote gave a summary on Noel Levitz data. Ave ACT and GPA we are considered highly selective but retention does not reflect this. Lynn states that we are not categorized as highly selective per MDHE. Since we bring in a high number of first generation students, S&T retention rate is something we should be proud of. Ability level...highest to lowest is how Noel Levitz broke down our retention rate. We are recruiting low income, low ability. We need to find out how to help them be successful, using money and programs to intervene early. Transfer and freshmen have very similar issues. End of January is when we should expect Noel Levitz to have their final summary. Quick snapshot...certain groups...EFC less than 18000 (\$1200 offered will help). \$29000 or less family income is (25% of our students) where we typically max Pell (\$5500). There's a big financial gap the student needs to fill. Laura Stoll stated that it is interesting the very clear data of academic and financial levels comparing returners vs non returners. Noel Levitz identified 30 students that could have possibly been retained had their financial package been different. Undergraduate Studies office compared those 30 to the non returning survey results and found that ½ of the 30 students stated financial reasons for reasons of not returning to S&T. Very difficult to retain need based students and so, we have been committed to the A2S project.

Entitlement attitude is another issue (Collier) for not returning. Four student financial assistance literacy seminars are being set up. Counselors in the SFA office are being set up for incoming freshmen. Stephanie Fitch requested that there be desk copies of on course be available for advisors.

Lynn Stichnote stated that students may be loan adverse and say they are not coming back due to fin aid reasons but have loans available. There are 2 major categories that our students fit into...low income and low ability. The Noel Levitz data does not point to reasons for low ability. Harvest Collier shared that much of students' perceived failure is psychological. They just don't know...they don't have an understanding to change. The question was then raised, how do you bring that to students? Stephanie Fitch answered that their needs to be bigger consequences. They are not doing what they want to do they are doing what their parents want them to do and not doing what they are passionate about, according to Patty Frisbee. They need to know what is out there, whether it's other engineering disciplines or other

majors. Maturity development is something we need to look further into. Larry Gragg shared that department chairs are wanting to see the Noel Levitz results.

**b. Entering Freshmen Survey**

Entering freshmen survey is given before the math placement test. It is currently a very lengthy survey. Patty Frisbee is asking for comments and suggestions for the survey. May need to take out other questions if there are several added questions. There is another survey given to entering freshmen, the opening week survey. Some questions may be better suited there. Feb 25<sup>th</sup> is first pro day. Patty Frisbee asked about other surveys that Institutional Research delivers- CIRP is every 3 years. Patty would like to see those results. Rachel Morris will look for previous CIRP results in previous retention notes. Student interest (SI) survey from last semester was brought up. We need to ask a student council rep to join our meetings. SI survey needs to be shared with committee.

**c. Math Subcommittee Update**

Stephanie Fitch presented for the math subcommittee.

Reviewed math course numbers and what they mean. Math ACT score of 22 or lower are automatically placed in math 3 (intermediate algebra).

40% of our incoming freshmen start in calculus 1, 45% start in a lower course. Math 3 graduation rates are higher than she expected. S&T's overall graduation rate is 66-67%. Students that start in Math 4/6 have that graduation rate. Math 2 and 3 graduation rates are not great but are as expected. Graduation rates are of all students (she wants just first time college students) in math 2, 3, 4, 6. The question was raised for total students in 2004-2006: Does the numbers go up because the enrollment goes up or is it because students are not as prepared? An additional section of math 3 had to be opened last semester. The math department was expecting to have to open additional math 4/6 but that was not the case. A2S brings in lower academic preparation according to Stephanie Fitch. Lynn Stichnote asked if there was consideration of instructors chosen to teach lower classes. Stephanie Fitch replied that math 2 and 3 are generally not grad students, they are adjuncts or teaching professors. The math department tends to keep same people teaching. Harvest Collier brought up the question-what do we do? We have the students and faculty we have. These issues may need to be addressed to the new chancellor. Stephanie Fitch stated that the math 2 harsh grading is being addressed. There is an issue of faculty availability to teach.

Enrollment breakdown by course-slide- math 8/12/14 combined together and math 12/21/22 combined together. Math 6 is not listed due to the fact that students already taking math 4 or 14 and are covered in other numbers on the slide. Math department considers math 3 and possibly math 2, remedial. If they have college credit, they are put in the next courses even if their math placement does not warrant that but are strongly advised to do what their placement scores suggest. Admission standpoint is the same that if their courses are not "rigorous" that they should take it here.

Math 2 issues...low success rate in spring. 77/117 (66%) d/f/wd. Of the 77, 35 were in Chemistry 1. 13 were successful (c or better). The rest received d, f, withdrew or hearer. Of the 77, 12 had taken Chemistry 1 previous to the semester they were enrolled in math 2. Only 2 of those were successful. Chemistry is seriously considering making math 4 a co-requirement. Math and chemistry need to meet with registrars before fall to discuss. Math department is continuing LEAD sessions.

**III. Next Meeting:** January 26th, 2012. A2S subcommittee (chaired by Brad Starbuck) will present.

**IV.** The meeting was adjourned.