

MINUTES

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

December 15, 2011

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Tyrone Davidson, Patty Frisbee, Anna Gaw, Larry Gragg, Katie Jackson, Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Kristi Schulte, Carol Smith, Ramya Thiagarajan, Nangai Yang, Summer Young.

Members Absent: Edna Grover-Bisker, Brooke Durbin, Cecilia Elmore, Stephanie Fitch, Deanne Jackson, Thulasi Kumar, Rance Larsen, Will Perkins, Stephen Raper, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll.

Guest Member: Tracy Wilson (for Lynn Stichnote)

Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the December 1st, 2011 meeting. A motion was made (Larry Gragg) and seconded (Ramya Thiagarajan) to approve the minutes with 2 corrections.

I. Old Business

- a. No old business.

II. New Business

- a. Update on wish list numbers from the Registrars

205 students on JOESS wish list as of 12-14-2011. This number is down from 300.

- b. Update on FS2011 FTC students not enrolled for SP2012

There are 61 on the list, down from 100. Summer and Carol have talked to students. Of those they have contacted:

- 4 have returned
- 4 may possibly return
- 4 are going to a community college
- 2 are going to their first choice school
- The rest stated "not a good fit"

- c. Discussion on articles of persistence and recession (5 Barriers)

1. Economic

Economic-As a university, we talk about student commitment and students talk about good jobs and making money. We see that students are concerned with initial issues and outcomes of college but the middle has so much water that we need to help build their bridge. Scott Miller said that he would like to call FEP students in between semesters who lost their scholarships and explain the appeal process. Summer Young brought up the fact that we (as a campus) don't see the economic barrier as a failure, but the students do. Tracy Wilson stated that the sending out SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress) emails to students after their 1st semester is a good idea. The SFA office has always sent emails after the academic year.

2. Societal

Environment for non engineers can be harassing. Question was raised if there are more non engineering, non returners in perspective. Summer Young stated that it's a complicated issue of tracking majors in that we are not clear of all possible changes a student makes. We have a subcommittee focusing on majors.

3. Psychological

Harvest Collier talked to several students making poor decisions on academic conduct. Students were asked what needs to happen to not find themselves in those situations. Students responded by saying they needed to be frightened and experience something drastic (most student feel these situations would never happen to them). Kristi Schulte brought up "Academic Rebounding" with the key being engaging students in discussion/reflecting on what they should have done and what they can do. Give them tools and conversation starters. The discussion continued about how soon we could start something like this and how can we require students to attend. Maturity is a psychological issue that is hard to address as well. Kristi Schulte stated how students have to figure out how choices affect their mistakes. For some of our students, it takes a huge crisis to understand that.

4. Organizational

It was stated by Summer Young that class size is rarely an issue. Scott Miller has heard of issues that instructors expect students to know the pre-requisites for courses. Students can and do go to other institutions and receive better grades and then transfer back in those pre-reqs.

5. Interactionalist

Focuses on the interaction between the student and the college. The lack of the feeling of being connected to the campus/classroom has a detrimental effect on student success. We need to find a way to address this. Patty Frisbee is concerned with the excuses students make of "weird" people when asked why they are not returning. Summer stated that you can't make everyone happy all of the time.

d. The committee looked at the Persistence vs. Retention graph.

- i. Persistence is greater than retention by a significant amount. Harvest brought up the question of how does this change our perception/focus on retention?
- ii. Scott Miller shared the FE10 grade distribution. 63/924 failed FE10 and were invited back for Spring 2012. This is very concerning data and Scott is breaking the data out over the semester and putting it together.

III. **Next Meeting:** January 12th, 2012.

IV. The meeting was adjourned.