

# MINUTES

## Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

April 7, 2011

8:15-9:15 AM

**Members Present:** Harvest Collier, Tyrone Davidson, Cecilia Elmore, Anna Gaw, Larry Gragg, Rance Larsen, F. Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Kristi Schulte, Michael Schwartz, Brad Starbuck, Laura Stoll, and Summer Young.

**Members Absent:** Jay Goff, Katie Jackson, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Thulasi Kumar, Lee-Ann Morton, Will Perkins, Stephen Raper, Stephanie Rostad, Carol Smith, and Lynn Stichnote.

**Guest:** Nicholas Wilson (Student Council)

### I. Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the March 24, 2011 meeting. A motion was made (Anna Gaw) and seconded (Rachel Morris) to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### II. Old Business—a) Reminder of Work Groups

### III. New Business

Student Council President, Michael Schwartz and Vice President, Nicholas Wilson presented information regarding the Student Council's development of a "Student Honor Code". Their discussion emphasized that the Honor Code was intended to not be a policy, but an understanding of and by the students to adopt a behavior of honesty and respect. It was related that 80% of 1,400 students polled, were supportive of the adoption of an Honor Code. The draft document that was shared will need to be approved by the general body of the student government. There was a brief discussion about Honor Code promotion strategies. Michael Schwartz indicated that presenting it to incoming freshman students during the fall semester freshman convocation would be one of the best opportunities to present it to new students.

Harvest Collier led a brief discussion on "Seven Myths About Student Retention" (Joe Cuseo & Teresa Farnum, Teresa Farnum & Associates, 2011).

Myth #1: Attrition is a "student problem," not a campus or institutional problem.

Myth #2: Retention would not be a problem if we just admitted "better students."

Myth #3: And while we're at it, richer students would help, too.

Myth #4: Most students drop out because they "flunk out"

Myth #5: Profiling "leavers" is the best method of understanding attrition.

Myth #6: It's not the faculty's job to "retain" students but to promote student learning.

Myth #7: Campuses are already doing all that they can do to improve student retention.

Rance Larsen added that parental roles and financial burden were increasingly important to consider relative to factors that influence student retention.

- IV. **Next Meeting:** May 5, 2011 at 8:15 am; A presentation will be made by Thulasi Kumar on the CIRP Survey.

**V.**

The meeting was adjourned.