

# MINUTES

## **UMR Retention Committee Meeting**

January 11, 2007

8:15-9:15 AM

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Harvest Collier, Stephanie Fitch, Gearoid MacSithigh, Jay Goff, Matt Goodwin, F. Scott Miller, Emily Petersen, Stephen Raper, Laura Stoll, Steve Watkins

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Dana Barnard, Meg Brady, Carl Burns, Wes Chappell, David Coe, Gregory Gelles, Amy Gillman, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Kristi Schulte, Lynn Stichnote, Robert Whites

- I. **Approval of Minutes** from 12-14-06 meeting. The committee reviewed and approved the minutes with revisions to sections II-B to reflect the following motion by Stephanie Fitch:

“Stephanie Fitch made a motion that the Retention Committee recommend to the Academic Council that the Student Academic Regulations be amended to require students who are academically deficient or on scholastic probation to participate in student success activities offered on campus.”

## **II. Old Business**

### **A. “What Works in Student Retention?” (ACT Report/Survey)**

Harvest Collier shared copies of reports/surveys on from the ACT on “What Works in Student Retention?” from four-year public and four-year private colleges and universities.

Committee discussions and comments:

-Jay Goff shared summaries of ACT’s 2006 Retention Recommendations and Management Guidelines to address student concerns. (See Attached)

## **III. New Business**

### **A. Advising Undecided Students-UMR Reorganization**

Harvest Collier offered a brief summary on the status of the process for establishing a new campus staff position whose role, in-part, will be to have responsible for advising the undecided students that are currently being advised in the deans offices. Collier indicated that the position

questionnaire and the position description were delivered to HR and he was awaiting word from that office on next steps.

### **B. Follow Up Discussion ID/Information on Deficient/Probation Students**

(1) Several perspectives were shared regarding providing advisors with information as early as possible in the semester on advisees in academic difficulty.

(2) Concern was also expressed for the timing needed in providing deficient student information/decisions from departments to allow students to retain their pre-registration classes for the next semester.

(3) There was discussion on the checking of pre-requisites and if this is being uniformly practiced by units on campus.

(4) There was also mention of the "Value of Advising" and how it should be recognized from the departmental perspective.

Harvest Collier indicated that the above 4 items would be part of the discussion at the March Chairs meeting.

## **IV. Announcements**

**A. Achieving Academic Excellence-UMR Student Success Program** begins on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Harvest Collier announced that Steve Raper would be joining the team to assist with the students participating in the program. Collier announced that presently, 48 students had requested to participate in the program.

### **B. New Learning Communities in the Residential College**

Harvest Collier announced that two new learning communities have been established in the Residential College to accommodate the increased number of students with the new building opening in Fall 2007.

The new communities are:

- (1) **Music, Theater and the Arts Learning Community** and
- (2) **First-Year Learning Community: Seeds of Success**. The new communities will be led by Dick Miller and Ralph Flori respectively.

## **V. Adjournment**