

# MINUTES

## Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

January 15, 2009

8:15-9:15 AM

**Members Present:** Harvest Collier, Kim Frazier, Amy Gillman, Larry Gragg, Rance Larsen, F. Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Suzanne Schroer, Carol Smith, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll

**Members Absent:** Jay Goff, Sunnie Hughes, Mary Ellen Kirgan, C.R. Thulasi Kumar, Barb Prewett, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte, Summer Young

**Guests:** Jia Ren, Institutional Research and Assessment

- I. **Review and Approve Minutes:** The committee reviewed the minutes from the 12/18/08 meeting and voted to approve the minutes as written.
- II. **Evaluation of Survey Results:** The committee reviewed a document summarizing the survey results from the 2008 Non-Returning Student Survey, Fall 2008 Entering Student Survey, Spring 2008 Senior Survey, 2007-08 Academic Alert System report, National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), and 2008 Student Satisfaction Survey.

Discussion:

Suzanne Schroer asked if a new question could be included in the senior survey to determine if students feel their course content is valuable.

Dr. Gragg noticed that one of the common threads was "engagement". It appears student-faculty engagement is connected to student success. The committee discussed- What does engagement mean? Does it mean *in-class* or *out-of-class* engagement?

- Suzanne Schroer said she interprets engagement as "engagement with peers". The students she knows that leave the campus indicate they do so because they did not engage with their peers (did not feel S&T was a good fit for them).  
- Dr. Collier indicated formal advising is done well but developmental advising could be improved. The committee discussed the different interpretations/definitions of "developmental advising". Dr. Gragg mentioned in his department, he asks students about the quality of advising they receive. He lets the students define what advising means to them.

The committee discussed the practicality of including an advising question on Joe'SS enrollment, surveying students through Hobson's after advising week and conducting voluntary mid-term evaluations.

Dr. Collier made the following assignment:

- a. Continue reviewing the summary document.
- b. Bring back two suggestions to share with the group at the next meeting. Suggestions should include things we can do to improve student retention.

**III. Next Steps**

- A. Discuss assignment
- B. Look at Hogan Personality Index (HPI) data
- C. Discuss student-faculty engagement

**IV. Announcement:** The HLC/NCA Accreditation Site Visit is February 23-25, 2009. The full report is available at: [accreditation.mst.edu](http://accreditation.mst.edu).

**V. Next Meeting:** January 29, 2009, 8:15 AM, Silver & Gold, Havener Center

The meeting was adjourned.