

MINUTES

UMR Retention Committee Minutes

January 25, 2007

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present

Harvest Collier, Stephanie Fitch, Amy Gillman, Jay Goff, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Gearoid MacSithigh, F. Scott Miller, Emily Petersen, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte, Laura Stoll, James Woner

Members Not Present

Dana Barnard, Meg Brady, Carl Burns, Gregory Gelles, Matt Goodwin, Lynn Stichnote, Steve Watkins, Robert Whites

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 1-11-07 meeting with minor revisions to the wording in sections III-B-(2) and III-B-(3).

Old Business

A. Achieving Academic Excellence Program

The program began January 22, 2007. Approximately 50 students are participating. Activities planned for the next session include:

- Student will receive results from their On-Course self assessment and the Learning and Study Strategies Inventory (LASSI). The results will be discussed.
- Dr. Ralph Flori will work with the students on time management issues.
- The students will be divided into smaller groups and assigned a faculty mentor.

B. Review and discuss revised minutes from the 12-14-06 meeting.

The committee reviewed the revised minutes from the 12-14-06 meeting and discussed how to best implement the recommended actions concerning scholastic probation. Committee comments:

- Concerned there will be resistance by the Academic Council. Who is going to implement this? How are we going to do it?
- Laura Stoll expressed concern: If this is stated and the academic regulations are changed- How does the Registrar's Office enforce these regulations?
- Gearoid MacSithigh commented that early intervention is key. Amend the

regulations so early intervention is possible.

-Harvest Collier called for a subcommittee to work on the issue. Laura Stoll volunteered to work with the subcommittee.

Committee members suggested the following people serve on the subcommittee: 1) the chairs of the two Academic Council committees (Lance Haynes/Academic Freedom and Bob Schwartz/RP&A), 2) a student from the Retention Committee, 3) one other Retention Committee member; 4) Jeff Smith from Student Affairs; and 5) possibly a Student Council representative that works with academic policies.

Laura Stoll voiced her concern about a referral to Academic Council, indicating these referrals are mounting and if we are going to do something, it needs to be well thought out and narrowly defined.

The following Retention Committee members volunteered to serve on the subcommittee: Stephanie Fitch, Gearoid MacSithigh, Laura Stoll (as a resource person only).

Steve Raper commented that it is important for students to take personal responsibility for their academic success. It will be important to incorporate this into any resources that are developed. The committee discussed ways to encourage student to take personally responsibility.

Dr. Collier raised concerns about resources to support the program. Who is going to teach the course? Where are the resources coming from? Stephanie Fitch indicated that our proposal to Academic Council may not need to be that specific.

Jay suggested looking again at Bradley University's retention program and possibly visiting their campus to gain additional information about their Turning Point Retention Program. Gillman suggested also looking at Illinois State's Project Success program.

New Business

- A. **Mid Grades and Drop Dates- Due** to time constraints, this topic was not covered. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.