

UMR Retention Committee Meeting

MINUTES

OCT. 20, 2005 8:15 AM

MEETING CALLED BY	Harvest Collier
ATTENDEES	Harvest Collier, Amy Gillman, Carl Burns, Greg Gelles, Laura Stoll, Emily Petersen, F. Scott Miller, Gearoid MacSithigh, Stephanie Fitch, Tammy Pratt
MEMBERS NOT PRESENT	Dana Barnard, Jennifer Bayless, Ron Bieniek, Meg Brady, Jeff Cawfield, Kate Drowne, Fathi Finaish, Jay Goff, Matt Goodwin, Martina Hahn, Nancy Hubing, Marcus Huggans, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Christopher Ramsay, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte, Tina Sheppard, Lynn Stichnote, Steve Watkins, Robert Whites

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 10-6-05 meeting with the correction of one minor typographical error.

Agenda Topics

I. Impact of UMR Drop Policy

- Stephanie Fitch redistributed a copy of the DFW Survey and distributed a report with comparative data for UMR. She related some recent discussions she had with UMR coaches who are upset about UMR's current drop policy.
- Laura Stoll explained that in addition to the report provided, some additional data has been compiled to include reason codes for student drops (reasons such as excessive absences, unsatisfactory work, or both). This data was recently distributed to the Deans and Vice Provosts for review; however, the data requires additional analyses.
- Stephanie Fitch explained that nearly all drops at other institutions occur within the first two weeks, due to absences.
- The committee discussed potential legal concerns. Students who are dropped from courses may require their tuition returned.
- Carl Burns indicated that approximately 6 students recently reported their reason for withdrawing from UMR was for being dropped from one or more courses.
- Harvest Collier suggested that instead of using the drop policy, instructors could make LEAD, tutoring and JAM Sessions a requirement of the course, instead of a recommendation. Gearoid MacSithigh indicated that if this becomes a requirement, the schedule should be modified so students can attend. The committee agreed it would be important to clarify how this requirement would be standardized for the campus.
- Harvest Collier recommended the discussion be brought to the Provost's cabinet.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Laura Stoll will bring a summary of recent student drops to the next meeting.

II. 6- Week Pilot Program Update

Harvest Collier gave an update of the academic pilot program:

- During the first session, students completed the LASSI (Learning & Study Skills Inventory). During the second session, students focused on critical issues identified by the LASSI results and discussed their individual goals.

- Students reviewed their goals during the third session and discussed the practicality of implementation.
- Three faculty members are participating. Students are owning the process. Jeremiah King has agreed to participate in future sessions, as a student mentor.

III. 6- Assessment of Advising Update

- Stephanie Fitch reported that the subcommittee is currently working on the survey questions.
- They are planning to conduct the student survey during the spring 2006 semester by attaching the survey to the registration process in Joe's SS.

IV. 6- Limitation of Hours for Work Study Students

- Laura Stoll reported that currently, UMR students who are working less than 16 hours per week maintain an average GPA of 3.17. UMR students working > 16 hours per week maintain an average GPA of 3.21.
- Currently, UMR work study students are limited to 16 hours per week; however, all other UMR students may work up to 20 hours per week.
- Bob Whites is planning to meet with the Academic Council's Student Awards and Scholarships Committee to request making the work study requirement consistent with work requirements for other UMR students.
- The committee agreed it would be better to keep our students employed on campus, rather than have them work off campus.

The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING NOV. 3, 2005, 8:15 AM