

MINUTES

UMR Retention Committee Meeting

October 4, 2007

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Kim Frazier, Amy Gillman, Jay Goff, Larry Gragg, Mary Ellen Kirgan, F. Scott Miller, Suzanne Schroer, Kristi Schulte, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Christa Weisbrook

Members Absent: Brittany Harrington, Sunnie Hughes, C.R. Thulasi Kumar, Barb Prewett,

Guests: Connie Arthur

I. Welcome Guests:

Connie Arthur of UMR Disability Support Services attended the meeting. She was welcomed by the members of the committee.

II. Review & Approve Minutes The committee reviewed the minutes from the 9/20/07 meeting. The minutes were approved with three minor corrections to sections II and III-B.

III. New Business:

A. ACT National Retention and 5 Year Graduation Rates (Jay Goff)

The committee reviewed the National Retention and 5 Year Graduation Rates handout (Compiled from ACT Institutional Data Files, 2007). Jay Goff indicated ACT will be offering additional analysis in January or February of 2008.

Traditionally, private schools have focused on retention because they are revenue-driven institutions. Lynn Stichnote mentioned that in the past 10-15 years, public schools have become more focused on retention. 70% of students in the nation attend public institutions, indicating the majority of people are now more willing to send students to a public institution than a private institution.

Jay Goff recently attended a retention conference. One of the discussion topics focused on: *The Top Five Assessments- How do you learn what your students' issues are?* Research that needs to be done at every institution includes:

1. New student survey
2. Withdrawal survey
3. Follow up survey at beginning of next semester
4. Student satisfaction survey
5. Graduate survey

B. UMR Freshman Retention Rates (F. Scott Miller)

Dr. Miller provided the committee with a UMR Freshman Retention Rates chart indicating UMR freshman retention rates are higher than the national average.

C. UMR Disability Support Services (Connie Arthur)

Connie Arthur meets with and coaches UMR students with disabilities. She indicated UMR is seeing more and more students with disabilities coming in. Five years ago there were 89 students with registered disabilities. Currently 164 UMR students have registered disabilities:

36%- Learning Disabilities
45% Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)
25%- Psychological Disorders (These numbers are rising.)
16%- Health Related (physical) Disabilities
[25%- Multiple Disabilities]

Connie indicated that there are many more students at UMR with disabilities, but they have chosen not to disclose them. Sometimes a student will decide not to disclose a disability when they get to college because it offers them a fresh start. When a student gets to post-secondary education, the laws change and students don't have to disclose or be identified.

Connie indicated students are becoming more aware of the services that are offered to them. She distributed a copy of the accommodation letter that is sent out each semester and a copy of the pamphlet she shares with high school students.

- Christa Weisbrook noted that sometimes students with high math or science ACT scores and low reading scores may have a learning disability
- Jay Goff noted that UMR is the only school in the state that does not have a supplemental reading program.
- Connie Arthur informed us that her office has reading software to help these students.
- Harvest Collier announced the new UMR summer reading program for new students.
- Laura Stoll asked about the retention of students with disabilities. Connie indicated the data was not readily available.

What resources do we need? Connie suggested instructors begin considering "universal design" of courses. Many universities are looking at universal design and learning how to make course materials available in a variety of formats, including written, electronic and visual formats. Instructors can consider blind and deaf students as they plan lessons and assignments. Instructors should also look at the facilities/physical spaces in which they teach and consider students with mobility challenges.

IV. Announcements:

A. UMR Academic Advising Luncheon Series:

Oct. 15- "The Importance of Prerequisites for Student Success"- Panel Discussion, 12:00-1:00 PM, Missouri-Ozark Room, Havener Center

B. Next Meeting: October 18, 2007, 8:15-9:15 AM, Silver & Gold

The meeting was adjourned.