

UMR Retention Committee Meeting

MINUTES

OCT. 6, 2005

8:15 AM

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| MEETING CALLED BY | Harvest Collier |
| GUESTS | Marcie Thomas, Center for Educational Research & Teaching Innovation |
| ATTENDEES | Harvest Collier, Amy Gillman, Nancy Hubing, Kate Drowne, Meg Brady, Matt Goodwin, Bob Whites, Stephanie Fitch, Dana Barnard, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Greg Gelles, Gearoid MacSithigh, Emily Petersen |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 9-22-05 meeting. The committee approved the minutes with two minor revisions.

Agenda Topics

I. Results of D/F/W Survey

DFW Survey- Stephanie Fitch provided the committee with copies of the D/F/W survey results. Overall, the survey results indicate that UMR's D/F/W rates are lower than those reported by UMC and UMKC. Laura Stoll explained that when DFW rates were previously tracked (in 2002); there was a steady decline in the numbers. Stephanie Fitch explained that although this was a previous issue with our administration, the survey results indicate that that this is not a big issue for UMR and that the report shows comparative data with sister campuses to support this.

Instructor-Initiated Drop Policy- The same report contains information that Jonathan Helm collected from other institutions regarding drop policies. The responses indicate that UMR's policy on instructor drops is unusual in comparison to the responses received from other colleges and universities. Other institutions that drop students do so based on attendance and not performance.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Harvest Collier recommended discussing the UMR drop policy with the Provost and Deans to gain a better understanding of what our policy implies and to determine if there is consideration for revising it.
2. Harvest Collier requested a complete report for UMR be used as comparative data and to include a summary of the impact on our students (such as the number of complaints). Laura Stoll volunteered to compile this report.

II. Academic Alert System- Update

Amy Gillman reported that approximately 414 students have received academic alerts (prior to mid-term). Overall, the system is working well. IT is working out the minor issues that have been brought to their attention. UGS is seeking ideas for raising Academic Alert System awareness among UMR students. Committee members suggested making information available on table tents in the residence halls and posting flyers. The committee also discussed the effectiveness of asking instructors to put the information in their course syllabus, and to make announcements in class. UGS indicated an interest in developing an Academic Alert-student activity for Opening Week.

III. 6-Week Pilot Program for Academic Success

UGS sent an invitation to 300+ students to participate in the pilot program. Harvest Collier will give an update at the next Retention Committee meeting.

IV. Advising Subcommittee-Update

Stephanie Fitch gave the report for the Advising Assessment Subcommittee. The subcommittee recommends gathering supportive data through campus surveys. The subcommittee is currently working on survey questions. They proposed the following 3 surveys and methods for conducting each.

1. Student surveys- Work with Registrar & IT to incorporate the survey into the registration process.
2. Undergraduate faculty advisors- Unsure how to best deliver the survey.
3. Chairs/Administrators- Conduct electronic survey.

The subcommittee recommends the UMR Advising Handbook be updated and include a description of how to properly complete and submit the paperwork required by academic advisors on the campus.

The subcommittee plans to look at advisor training issues and to consider: What is currently offered? How do we improve the Academic Advising Conferences currently offered by UGS? Amy Gillman asked the subcommittee to propose a topic and potential speaker for the April 2006 academic advising conference.

Retention Committee members commented that many advisors want to become more familiar with the "basic information" related to the UMR curriculum and how to best advise students and process UMR paperwork.

V. UMR Retention Report

Harvest Collier distributed a copy of the Fall Semester 2005 Graduation and Retention Rates report, provided by Jay Goff.

Overall:

87% first-second year retention rate* (85% for the 2003 cohort)

64% six-year graduation rate* 1999 Freshman class cohort (63% for the 1998 cohort)

2001-2006 Strategic Plan Goals:

88%-90% first-second year retention rate

65%-68% six-year graduation rate

VI. Academic Dishonesty

Marcie Thomas announced the Nov. 2, 2005 panel discussion on Academic Dishonesty and distributed a draft copy of the agenda for this event. The panel discussion is being held to identify themes and arrive at strategies and solutions for improving the awareness of academic dishonesty issues, and the process UMR follows in dealing with these issues.

The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

OCT. 20, 2005, 8:15 AM