MINUTES

UMR Retention Committee Meeting
November 29, 2007
8:15-9:15 AM

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

Members Absent: Sunnie Hughes, C.R. Thulasi Kumar

Guest(s): Gerard B. Myles (for Sunnie Hughes)

Agenda Items:

I. **Review & Approve Minutes** -The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 11/15/07 meeting with two corrections to section II.

II. **Old Business:**

A. Academic Advising Committee Report –Kim Frazier reported that her office has revised the advising awards process and it will present this proposed new process to the Academic Advising Awards Committee on December 11th. The advising awards ceremony will be held on April 29, 2008.

Dr. Collier suggested the VPAA consider revising the faculty awards structure to include balanced recognitions in teaching, research and service award categories. Dr. Gragg agrees the awards and recognitions should include teaching, research and service.

B. Follow Up Items from the PRO Survey Results

1. Parental Involvement/Dealing with Family Issues- Dr. Collier asked the committee how to best address this issue.

- The committee recommended the university establish a main point of contact to handle family inquiries and related issues.
- In addition, the committee suggested the university establish a web site for parents and consider developing a parents' newsletter.
- Barb Prewett indicated the issue has been discussed within Student Affairs. Dr. Collier indicated that he and Dr. Robinson will meet to discuss it with Provost Wray.
- Kim Frazier suggested holding an academic advising session on *The Benefit of the Helicopter Parent.*
- The committee collectively agreed that although the family communication issue is an important one, it does not relate closely enough to mission of the Retention Committee for it to be a project led

by the committee. However, the committee decided to send forth a recommendation to the Chancellor and the Executive Committee suggesting the Parents Association should have a heightened presence, and a permanent home, and departmental sponsor.

2. *Sophomore Survey*- The committee discussed the possibility of conducting a sophomore survey and whether or not it would provide beneficial information.

- Suzanne Schroer suggested it may provide good insight into factors that contribute to "the sophomore slump".
- Jay Goff indicated that a general student satisfaction survey has not been conducted recently. Jay volunteered to provide the committee with example survey instruments at the next meeting.
- Committee members suggested the survey could be conducted with first year students during their second semester. The Hobson's communication tool (Success Chain) could be used to conduct the survey.

III. New Business:

A. Retention of International Students- Dr. Collier indicated that the number of international undergraduate students is increasing. As a result, we may see a retention issue emerge with certain groups of international students. Lynn Stichnote suggested a retention program be put in place to assist these students.

IV. Next Meeting: December 13, 2007, 8:15-9:15 AM, Silver & Gold Room