

# MINUTES

## **UMR Retention Committee Meeting**

February 22, 2007

8:15-9:15 AM

### **Guests**

LaKeisha Wheaton

### **Members Present**

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

### **Members Not Present**

Dana Barnard, Meg Brady, Harvest Collier, Matt Goodwin, Lynn Stichnote, Steve Watkins

### **Approval of Minutes**

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 1-25-07 meeting with one minor revision to Old Business section B.

### **Old Business**

**A. Mid Grades & Drop Dates-** Gearoid MacSithigh presented a concept to the Retention Committee regarding mid grades and drop dates. A handout was provided and is attached to these minutes. He suggested UMR consider adjusting the sequential order of the dates. Committee comments:

- Laura Stoll indicated the UMR drop date may be too late in the semester. Students must drop within the first 6 weeks to avoid a WD. Because the early drop date in the 6<sup>th</sup> week, students find it difficult to get into another class.
- Mary Ellen Kirgan proposed moving the early drop date to the 2<sup>nd</sup> week, but keeping the hearer status where it is. During the last 3 weeks of the semester, students cannot drop or get a WD or anything-students cannot withdraw.
- Laura Stoll questioned the purpose of not allowing students to withdraw in the last 3 weeks of class.
- James Woner indicated he would like to see the early drop/preliminary assessment date switched. Sometimes he does not get his grade back until right at the early drop or after. He cannot make decisions in time and worries about not having a WD or failing the class.
- Stephanie Fitch suggested a pass/fail option.

Following the discussion, Jay Goff proposed we construct a model time table of what we currently do (with the early drop date, pass/fail, mid term grades and drop during last 3 weeks of class) and look at it as a group at the next meeting. Once the committee has reviewed the proposed model, it will consider drafting a proposal for review by academic council.

Laura Stoll suggested the subcommittee would address the issue. James Woner volunteered to serve on the subcommittee as a student representative of the Retention Committee.

## **B. Academic Regulations Sub Committee- Update**

Stephanie Fitch drafted a "Notification of Scholastic Probation form" for the committee's review. Committee Comments:

- Gearoid MacSithigh suggested that departments be able to impose conditions on students while they are on academic probation, and before they become academically deficient. He proposed UMR revise the form to require departmental conditions are met before student are released from probation. Currently, students are released from probation based only on grades.
- Jay Goff suggested the subcommittee meet to discuss the issue and include it in the proposed model for review by the committee at the next meeting.
- Stephanie Fitch is concerned about the timing of Academic Council's review and will therefore circulate a proposal for the Retention Committee to review via email before the next meeting. Comments can be shared electronically in advance.

## **New Business**

### **A. Spring 2007 Retention Report (LaKeisha Wheaton)**

LaKeisha Wheaton, of UMR Enrollment Management, gave an overview presentation of the 2007 Retention Report.

Key points:

- A survey was conducted among first time freshmen enrolled FS2006 who did not return SP2007. 74% (20) of the non-returning students were surveyed.
- The lowest GPA of non-returning students was 2.5.
- No trend was discovered regarding where the students were going. They left varied reasons.
- One student enrolled in community college- he felt he needed more academic assistance. He plans to later return to UMR.

Retention Committee members asked questions. LaKeisha will email additional information to answer questions raised by the committee. This information can be shared with the committee at the next meeting. In addition, new questions were proposed for the call-script. LaKeisha will forward a copy of the script to the committee for their review. Dean Goff confirmed that the Retention Committee is in favor of Enrollment Management continuing with the time frame for call surveys.

**B. Academic Alert System-** Amy Gillman provided the following information:

**Academic Alert System- SP2007 Report** (as of 2-19-07)

- 318 alerts issued
- 266 open / 52 closed
- 125 Instructors using the system (\*discussed increase)
- 157 advisors engaged

Top three departments issuing academic alerts:

1. Freshman Engineering (106)
2. Computer Science (26)
3. Mech. Engineering (21)

**C. Student Success Program Models:** Amy Gillman provided handouts that include specific information related to the following academic assistance programs. (Due to time constraints, the committee will hold discussion on each model at the next meeting.)

- 1. Project Success- Illinois State University**
- 2. Turning Point Retention Program- Bradley University**

**Announcements**

A. NACADA Advising Webinar- "*Components of a Successful Faculty Advising Program: Institutional Commitment, Professional Development, Incentives, and Recognition*", Thursday, 2/22/07, 1:00-2:30 PM, Silver & Gold

B. UMR Outstanding Academic Advising Awards- Nominations due 2/28/07.

The meeting was adjourned.