

MINUTES

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

February 26, 2009

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Amy Gillman, Larry Gragg, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Rance Larsen, F. Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Kristi Schulte, Carol Smith, Brad Starbuck

Members Absent: Jay Goff, Sunnie Hughes, C.R. Thulasi Kumar, Barb Prewett, Stephen Raper, Suzanne Schroer, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Summer Young

Agenda Items:

- I. **Preliminary NCA Report:** Dr. Collier gave an overview of the February 23-25, 2009 HLC/NCA accreditation site visit. He reported the NCA Team will recommend Missouri S&T for full accreditation for the next ten years. In 2011, Missouri S&T must provide a report to the HLC describing the improvements it has made with the assessment of student learning outcomes.
- II. **At Risk S&T Students:** What do we do for Missouri S&T students who are "at-risk"? Dr. Collier presented the following best practices for student success. Committee discussion items are also included below.

Critical Considerations for University At-Risk Students:

1. Intrusive Advising- Intrusive advising strategies are typically used with at-risk students, and are special techniques based on prescriptive, developmental, and integrated advising models.

(http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0FCR/is_1_36/ai_85007770?tag=content;col1)

Discussion: What triggers intrusive advising? To some extent, our Academic Alert System serves as an intrusive advising tool. Illinois State has a GPA predictor that allows them to contact students early and inform them they are at risk for being placed on probation.

2. College Transition Programs- The utilization of the LASSI pre and post-college transition program support reduction in the number of scores falling below the 50th percentile.

(http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa4116/is_200504/ai_n13502868?tag=rbxcra.2.a.11)

Discussion: Low LASSI scores may serve as a predictor for at-risk students. Pre and post LASSI scores may be beneficial. Other possible predictors: Math placement scores combined with high school class rank, GPA and high school course scores. A suggestion was made to give the LASSI to HGR students. Also- look at all incoming

freshmen, identify characteristics/indicators in groups of students, and offer targeted programming to help them.

3. College Student Retention- Formula for Student Success- College students successfully completing their education is based on early, intensive, and continuous intervention.

(http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0QLQ/is_3_20/ai_n15399905?tag=rbxcra.2.a.11)

Discussion: Early intensive intrusive intervention- this is difficult to do.

4. Admission's Identification of At-Risk Students- How significant are high school GPA, class rank, standardized test scores, student involvement, emotional and social variables as predictors of student success?

Discussion: Financial issues are predictors. Look at these closely and consider options for intrusive financial assistance.

5. Roles of Academic Departments- What roles should academic departments actively take to enhance student success and retention?

Discussion: Consider looking at retention by departments.

III. Next Meeting: March 12, 2009, 8:15 AM, Silver & Gold, Havener Center. Dr. Kumar will give a presentation on the Hogan Personality Inventory (HPI) data.

The meeting was adjourned.