

UMR Retention Committee Meeting

MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2006 8:15 AM

MEETING CALLED BY	Harvest Collier
MEMBERS PRESENT	Harvest Collier, Stephanie Fitch, Amy Gillman, Matt Goodwin, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Gearoid MacSithigh, F. Scott Miller, Emily Petersen, Tammy Pratt, Laura Stoll
MEMBERS NOT PRESENT	Dana Barnard, Ron Bieniek, Meg Brady, Carl Burns, Gregory Gelles, Jay Goff, Marcus Huggans, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte, Lynn Stichnote, Steve Watkins, Robert Whites
GUESTS	Robert Montgomery

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 2-23-06 meeting.

Agenda Items

I. Academic Advising Program- Continual Improvement

Amy Gillman distributed a summary of the March 1st Advising Panel Discussion.

- * Stephanie Fitch-“Developmental advising” is not of particular interest with students. Students are primarily concerned with advisors knowing the curriculum, and the process for getting them on the right academic path without making mistakes. Would like to see how other departments train their advisors. Noted the advisors on the panel were all non-tenure track faculty
- * Dr. Collier- Suggested an “Advising Coordinator” to facilitate advisor training, and provide resources to advisors (NACADA information, etc.)
- * Tammy Pratt- Suggested that this person be a faculty member. Dr. Collier-Mentioned it would likely have to be an additional role for an existing employee of the campus. Stephanie Fitch- Concerned about asking someone to do more. May have difficulty identifying someone, but it could be possible with the proposed administrative re-alignment.
- * Amy Gillman- The student group will present the survey results to the Retention Committee at the April 20th meeting.

II. Assisting Students on Academic Probation

Committee Discussion:

- * Dr. Collier- UGS is putting a report together that summarizes the outcomes of the Spring 2006 Achieving Academic Excellence (AAE) Program.
- * Amy Gillman-Overall, students’ feed back indicates the program was useful and we should continue to offer this resource to UMR students. Their opinions varied on whether or not it should be required.
- * Suggestion- Look at the comparison of FS05 vs. mid term SS06 GPAs for AAE participants- Did it help them?
- * Tammy Pratt- Concerned that we know what we need to do- we need to develop a resource to assist students in developing academic skills and increasing motivation. Concerned we have resources on campus that are not being utilized [Counseling &

Academic Support Programs (CASP)].

- * The committee discussed next steps. Do we develop a course? Who, What, Where needs to be determined. Can we offer it this fall?
- * Mary Ellen Kirgan- How do we try to preempt it? Can we identify students through the LASSI, place them in groups and require they attend? Similar to conducting a first year experience course (FYE), with students grouped by “needs” level.
- * Tammy Pratt- How do we use the data to develop a one-hour FYE course for all UMR students?
- * Stephanie Fitch- There is no need to develop a new course. Consider incorporating the content into the freshman courses.

III. Retention Committee Annual Report

Dr. Collier announced that UGS is working on a report summarizing the activities and outcomes of the Retention Committee for Fall 2005- Spring 2006. A draft report will be provided at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

MARCH 23, 2006, 8:15 AM