

UMR Retention Committee Meeting

MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2006 8:15 AM

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the March 9, 2006 meeting, with the correction on one minor typographical error.
- The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the April 6, 2006 meeting, as written.

Agenda Items

I. Student Academic Advising Survey Presentation

Clayton Weidinger and Sara Newman gave a presentation summarizing the results of an advising survey recently conducted. The survey was conducted by a group of students in Speech 265. The survey was triggered by one student in the group who felt he had a bad advising experience at UMR. (Attached is a handout, summarizing survey results.)

Following the presentation, Retention Committee members made the following comments. (*Student responses are italicized.*)

1. How common is it for a student to be told to take a class that doesn't count? Do students who complain about this run their own CAPs reports? *Unknown. A third of the responses indicate students have had bad advising experiences.*
2. How can we help improve the survey response from UMR students? *Completed survey = ticket to free BBQ.*
3. The survey points out an important issue: How can advisors best communicate with/inform students? *Students commented that advisors should give advice about extracurricular activities. Two students in the survey said that they were not encouraged by their advisors to join student organizations and extracurricular activities. Students also want to know about professional societies in their discipline.*
4. Do you feel UMR has a big advising problem? *It's not a huge problem.*
5. Carl Burns suggested organizing student focus groups to gather more information about advising.
6. Stephanie Fitch commented it will be difficult to reach the advisors who need help. Suggested going to Department Chairs and asking them to discuss advising with new faculty. Take issues from focus groups to Chairs.

II. Draft Retention Committee Annual Report

* Due to time constraints, this issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING MAY 4, 2006, 8:15 AM