MINUTES

UMR Retention Committee Minutes

August 24, 2006
8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present

Dana Barnard, Meg Brady, Harvest Collier, Stephanie Fitch, Amy Gillman, Jay Goff, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Gearoid MacSithigh , F. Scott Miller, Emily Petersen, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Steve Watkins

Members Not Present

Carl Burns, Gregory Gelles, Matt Goodwin, Robert Whites

Old Business

A. 2005/06 Retention Committee Annual Report

The Committee reviewed and commented on the draft annual report. The report was approved with a few minor revisions. Committee members recommended that the report be presented to the Chancellor and Provost during a regularly-scheduled Retention Committee meeting.

The committee discussed the current status of Section VII of the report (Instructor-Initiated Drop Policy). Stephanie Fitch indicated that this issue was addressed by the Academic Freedom & Standards (AFS) Committee last year. The issue is still active. Laura Stoll mentioned an article about KU changing their drop date.

B. Academic Alert System: 2005-06 Summary

The committee reviewed the summary Academic Alert System handout, provided by the Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies. Minor revisions were suggested. The committee discussed the need to communicate that either instructors or advisors can close out an academic alert. The current application is set up to notify academic advisors when students do not read an alert, or when students miss a deadline for completing recommended actions. Technical programming revisions would need to be made in Phase II of the project to include instructors in these email notifications. Additional discussion on this topic will occur at the next meeting.

New Business

A. Close of Registration Enrollment Grid FS2006

Dean Jay Goff presented the FS2006 Close of Registration Enrollment Grid. Dean Goff reported the new freshman total is 980 students. He explained that enrollment is up in every major except Chemistry, and female student enrollment is up by 101 students.

Dean Goff indicated that 60% of our enrollment growth is due to retention. He also indicated there is no direct relation between class size and student retention or academic success. Lynn Stichnote mentioned the Retention Committee plays in important role in helping to spread this message to the campus.

Vice Provost Harvest Collier announced the new first year retention goal is 90%. He also indicated the need to develop a "second year experience" for UMR students.

B. Probationary/Deficient Students Enrolled Fall 2006
The committee reviewed a summary provided by the Office of Undergraduate & Graduate Studies. Due to insufficient time, this topic was tabled until the next meeting. Laura Stoll will provide an updated report for consideration at a future meeting.

C. 2006/07 Retention Committee Action Items
Due to insufficient time, this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Announcements

A. UGS Open House- September 6, 2006, 2:00-4:00 PM, 2nd floor Norwood Hall

B. Admissions at a Glance- August 30, 2006, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Next Meeting

The committee reviewed the 2006-07 meeting schedule. The Oct. 19 meeting was cancelled due to Homecoming and the inability to meet in the Havener Center. The committee discussed the possibility of meeting less frequently, but decided to continue meeting every two weeks.

Discussion topics for the next few meetings will include:

- Probationary/Deficient Student Enrolled FS2006
- 2006/07 Retention Committee Action Items
- Academic Alert System

The meeting was adjourned.