

UMR Retention Committee Meeting

MINUTES

SEPT. 8, 2005 8:15 AM

MEETING CALLED BY	Harvest Collier
ATTENDEES	Harvest Collier, Amy Gillman, Jay Goff, Greg Gelles, Jeff Cawlfeld, Kristi Schulte, Dana Barnard, Tammy Pratt, Stephanie Fitch, Gearoid MacSithigh, Kate Drowne, Laura Stoll, Emily Petersen, Marcus P. Huggans

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 8-25-05 meeting. The minutes were approved with two minor changes (typographical errors).

Agenda Topics

I. Proposed Pilot Program- for students on academic probation & academically deficient

The Retention Committee continued its discussion related to assisting students who are not meeting the academic course expectations. Dr. Collier indicated he would like to invite students to participate in a pilot program this semester.

Committee members shared the following comments:

- Which students will be invited to participate? How will we identify them?
- Will there be one person who is consistently present at these sessions? Who will that be? Consider identifying certain faculty, student organizations, or Honors students.
- Consider asking the Dean's Teaching Scholars to assist.
- How many of the Distinguished Teaching Professors and Dean's Teaching Scholars have participated in the On-Course workshop?
- Consider using the Supplemental Instruction model and incorporating it into the program.
- Consider involving the students' advisors.

Dr. Collier indicated he would move forward with the development of a pilot program and invite students to participate this semester. Ideas for program improvement can be incorporated as the program expands.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Laura Stoll will provide Dr. Collier with a list of students who can benefit from participating in the program. This list will include students who were academically deficient or on probation in May 2005, and are currently enrolled in FS 2005.
2. Dr. Collier will select a sampling of students from this list and invite them to participate in the program this semester.

II. Student Enrollment

Dean Goff reported the increase in UMR student enrollment.

- He mentioned that much of this increase was due to improved student retention and he thanked the Retention Committee for their efforts.
- Dean Goff will provide a detailed update for the committee in October 2005.

III. Evaluation of Academic Advising at UMR

Dr. Collier described the background/development of the UMR Academic Advising Program. He asked the committee to consider developing an advising process and a method for evaluating the advising process.

Committee members shared the following comments and suggestions:

- Focus on freshman engineering advising- it may have its own process. In the past Ron Fannin has sent out an email survey regarding advising.
- Consider looking at other schools for model programs. Collect data/success stories from other schools and share this information with the UMR faculty.
- Are we going to ask our advisors how confident they are about advising students? Particularly for new faculty who have been at UMR less than 5 years. Many new faculty members wonder how the advising process works, and what to recommend to students regarding their course schedules, placement tests, etc.
- What kind of training do UMR advisors get? Does each department handle it differently?

The committee discussed the potential development of an "Academic Advising 101" session for UMR faculty which would include the fundamentals of advising students.

ACTION ITEMS

At our next meeting, Dr. Collier suggested the Retention Committee form a sub-committee to address the evaluation of academic advising at UMR.

NEXT MEETING

SEPT. 22, 2005, 8:15 AM