

MINUTES

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

October 7, 2010

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Gayatri Bhatt, Tyrone Davidson, Cecilia Elmore, Anna Gaw, Larry Gragg, Katie Jackson, Zongmin Kang, Mary Ellen Kirgan, F. Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte, Carol Smith, Brad Starbuck, and Laura Stoll.

Members Absent: Jay Goff, Rance Larsen, Lee-Ann Morton, Will Perkins, Stephanie Rostad, Michael Schwartz, Lynn Stichnote and Summer Young.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the 9-23-10 meeting. There was a discussion about who was called among Non-Returning students and Laura Stoll expressed she wanted probation students called going forward and Carol Smith agreed to do so. A motion was made (S. Raper) and seconded (L. Stoll) to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. **Welcome** to Cecilia Elmore, Director of Women's Leadership Institute as a new member of the Retention Committee. Elmore stated retention fell this year to 87% for women for Fall 2009.

III. Old Business

Discuss Retention Committee Annual Report

The Chancellor presentation has been moved from October 21 to December 2, due to scheduling conflicts.

--Harvest Collier explained the goal would be to get the report approved by the committee and then send to the Chancellor with an executive summary. A brief presentation will then be given in December covering what took place last year and the focus for this year.

--Larry Gragg expressed each Work Group report out for their area.

--Collier requested that with five work groups, that there would be three slides for each group and the following framework be used:

Slide 1) Share what we were committed to

Slide 2) Share what we learned

Slide 3) Share where there is opportunity for continual improvement.

--Gayatri Bhatt requested comments on the report be sent to her by Monday, Oct. 18 with a goal to vote Oct. 21.

Review Priority Work Group Areas for 2010 - 2011

--Steve Raper expressed of the four areas to work on this year he considers two to be realistic items--advising and intrusive intervention. Perhaps the group should focus on those two for the greatest impact.

--Laura Stoll explained the family item is moving forward without a budget with Katie Jackson's role.

--Larry Gragg expressed once the new Vice Chancellor of University Advancement is in place, then the financial aid item can move forward as well.

IV. New Business

4th Week Enrollment Update

--Laura Stoll provided a handout and shared that the official total enrollment is 7,206. This reflects an increase of 5.7% overall. There are 388 new transfers and 476 new graduate students. The 1982 record was 7,900 and all on campus. Today, 6,520 are on campus as a result of steady, planned and managed growth. Next fall is looking like continued growth. Stoll expressed if Lynn Stichnote was here she would state we have reached price elasticity for African American recruitment because as funding went down so did enrollment because students can go other places.

--Cecelia Elmore shared there is a record of female students this year with 1,610 and of those 1,472 on campus.

--Brad Starbuck shared applications are up by 10% for Fall 2011.

Finalize Work Group Members and Chairs for 2010 – 2011

--Collier expressed the need to establish chairs for each group. The following volunteered: Dr. Miller will chair advising and Elmore asked to be added. Dr. Gragg will chair intrusive. Laura Stoll will chair family and asked that Patty Frisbee be added as a guest member. Lynn Stichnote was volunteered to be chair for financial aid and Starbuck asked to be added.

Schedule for Presentation Updates

--Collier expressed the need to establish a schedule for workgroup updates and presenters. For Intrusive intervention, Collier is willing to present along with Dr. Gragg and his different approach of intervention at the beginning of the semester with the LASSI inventory and personal interviews.

--The schedule for the remainder of this semester would be: Nov. 4th--Collier , Nov. 18th—Stichnote, Dec. 2nd--Chancellor presentation segmented by each work group from 2009 - 2010

--Collier wondered if the NSEE, FSEE reports are complete and Zongmin Kang suggested checking with Dr. Kumar.

Strategic Plan

--Collier shared Strategic Plan Objective 1 and 3 action items from the tactical plan, improving Academic Advising.

--Scott Miller shared he is trying to bring in the ME advising tree and course scheduler into the process and is waiting for a cost estimate from IT. Banner software is also out in the market. Staff members are comparing the cost of building something in house vs. the purchase of a commercial products

--Stoll shared USelect should be implemented in the next few months especially for community college students and will be a public site. The scheduler is already available.

--Raper believes the campus should pursue items that are value added and is the ME tool effective?

--Collier shared ME is looking at hiring a full-time advisor for probationary students and servicing other current students and asks that the person work very closely with UGS.

--Collier the third action item from the tactical plan is the Advising Handbook.

--Anna Gaw shared an on-line resource will be available by the end of the semester. It will be a comprehensive handbook for advisors and students. If you have information you would like linked, please send it to her.

--Stoll requested more clarity about academic regulations be included, especially about repeating courses.

--Collier shared that as it relates to studying, more students are demonstrating they really don't know how to do it with a level of awareness. This year, more students in Chem I are changing to hearer status. Students don't want to take the chance because of fear of losing their scholarship. When students are asked why they didn't go to LEAD sessions or utilize other resources, students say they just gave up and didn't know what else to do. They expressed they never had to do anything before to improve their grade. The question becomes, "How do you address it?" When students take the LASSI, it reveals: 52% of students relate to their ability to use support techniques or materials.

--Miller explains it is a process they are not use to and it is a different way of learning.

--Collier expressed the only proactive mechanism would be HGR. Once on campus, a mentoring program for at-risk students could be explored. However, the question becomes who would coordinate/monitor such a program?

--Miller expressed it is a good idea, but difficult in a budget neutral environment.

--Mary Ellen Kirgan expressed such a program only works if the mentee feels it applies. Students would express, "I've never had to ask for help before, I don't know how to ask and I feel like a failure."

--Elmore shared there are 90 applicants for PRO Leaders this year and perhaps some of them could be mentors.

--Miller shared that Opening Week mentors are volunteers and reflects the nature of the generation.

--Raper feels a mentoring program by volunteers would be the most effective. He feels the student culture of the campus needs to change and believes it gets worse in students' junior and senior years.

--Collier requested a behavior psychologist present, as this is probably the case for 20 – 30% of S&T students.

--Kirgan shared students want an example of what will be on the exam.

--Raper expressed students feel entitled to a degree, which will equate to a job.

V. Next Meeting: October 21, 2010 at 8:15 am.

The meeting was adjourned.