

# MINUTES

## Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

April 8, 2010

8:15-9:15 AM

**Members Present:** Harvest Collier, Gayatri Bhatt, Tyrone Davidson, Jay Goff, Larry Gragg, David Giffin, Sunnie Hughes, Zongmin Kang, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Rance Larsen, Rachel Morris, Kristi Schulte, Carol Smith, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote and Laura Stoll.

**Members Absent:** C.R. Thulasi Kumar (Alissa Fleck), F. Scott Miller, Lee-Ann Morton, Stephen Raper, Amiel Weerasinghe and Summer Young.

### I. Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the 3-25-10 meeting. A motion was made (J. Goff) and seconded (L. Stoll) to approve the minutes, The minutes were unanimously approved.

### II. New Business

- A. Dr. Harvest Collier provided an Update from Goal 1 Working Group:** *Implement a model of early intervention to identify and engage academically “at risk” students.*  
The pilot involved 750 students over four sections with 16% of the students doing poorly in the course. However, 200 Academic Alerts were given. It is important to look at the grade distribution over '07, '08 and '09. It is hard to say what is the impact of Academic Alert, but we keep tweaking it to meet students' needs.  
The prevailing question from instructors to students is, “How can I hold you accountable?”

#### **Sample of student responses:**

- I would not pay attention unless I had an academic alert
- I had to experience not being academically successful first
- Yes, telling my mom would hold me accountable

#### **Comments after the presentation included:**

- Mary Ellen Kirgan suggested it might be important to look at what are the combination of courses the students are taking.
- Larry Gragg suggested looking at the status of the students in the first four weeks.
- Jay Goff suggested looking at mid-term exams and Carl Burns' work from 7 – 8 years ago with the Jam sessions. He also shared that Ohio State University's retention rate is at 92%, while bringing in 15,000 students. He explained their two-stage process. First, electronic submission of ACT and this information is provided to advisors. Second, written permission is secured from students to release information, including academic alerts.
- Lynn Stichnote expressed it is important to engage students through parents and the resource available through University of Missouri-Columbia's parent's website.  
<http://mizzouparents.missouri.edu/>

--Laura Stoll indicated she is concerned with the move away from not having a Parent's Day or Parent's Weekend at Missouri S&T, as it seems to be in the opposite direction of goals of the Retention Comm.

--David Griffin indicated that sometimes students just need to have a good scare.

--Kristi Schulte shared students have to be ready for change. Sometimes it is a matter of confidence vs. competence.

--Tyrone Davidson shared conflict that arises, because students expectations are that they want it solved and handled for them.

--Carol Smith explained this expectation is a carry-over of their experiences from high school.

Harvest Collier asked, "**Why do students not take surveys?**"

--David Griffin commented the students must some type of reward in connection with completing the survey for higher response rates.

Harvest Collier asked, "**Do we need a new name for Academic Alert?**" The committee did not have initial brainstorm on this idea, but will discuss it further.

**III. Next Meeting:** April 22, 2010- 8:15-9:15 AM, Library Room 203 with a presentation by either Group 2 or David Griffin.

The meeting was adjourned.