

MINUTES

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

May 6, 2010

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Tyrone Davidson, Jay Goff, Larry Gragg, David Giffin, Sunnie Hughes, Zongmin Kang, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Rance Larsen, F. Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Lee-Ann Morton, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte, Brad Starbuck and Laura Stoll.

Members Absent: Harvest Collier, Gayatri Bhatt, Carol Smith, Lynn Stichnote, Amiel Weerasinghe and Summer Young.

I. Old Business

Does the Retention Committee wish to rename the Academic Alert?

A motion was made (L. Stoll) and seconded (L. Gragg) to keep the current name.

Motion was unanimously supported.

II. New Business

Which of our projects from last year have been tabled?

Parent advocate and centralized student services.

--Brad Starbuck suggested this was a budget constraint issue.

Priorities for next year:

--Jay Goff expressed the committee is at a place similar to ten years ago, when a list was developed and then acted. Now these efforts need to be kept and further developed.

--Jay reminded the group about Dr. Wes Habley's visit and asked if we should revisit?

Access Missouri

--Jay suggested that there will be a greater effort for Access Missouri, so should a tactical plan item be specifically developed?

--Larry Gragg shared that the sense from the Strategic Planning Committee is to have fewer tactical plan items.

First Generation

Look at retention and align with other efforts like shifting financial aid to need based.

Under-represented minorities

--Mary Ellen suggested some of the effort should be to retain under-represented minorities.

Information Dissemination

--Jay requested that we look at data, surveys, and audits. The committee previously received reports each semester on the students who did not return, but those were missing this year. The consensus was that this is important information, and the committee needs to hear more reports about the reasons possible.

Intervention Strategies

--Larry states goal 1 should be retained from last year.

- Stephen Raper shared he sees more poor grades in History or English.
- Larry confirmed with History that students don't come in for help.
- Mary Ellen shared she sees the poor grades in math and expressed that resources such as LEAD are not being utilized.
- Laura Stoll asked if this is specifically on Thursdays and Mary Ellen stated it varies.
- Lea Ann Morton asked if there is online help available.
- Tyrone Davidson shared that students see help sessions as a burden, not help.
- Mary Ellen stated she will promote help sessions as a ways to develop study groups
- Jay encouraged a "metacluster" approach by reviewing an old audit, then expand what that audit indicates are the problem areas. Should we include attendance at intervention activities, see if they correlate?

Best Practices

- Jay shared Ohio State, with 16,000 freshmen had a 92% retention rate and utilized social networking. <http://www.osu.edu/currentstudents/>
- Jay shared Mizzou, has had an office of three to contact parents, develop and revise a website. He requested looking into duplicating these resources at S&T. <http://parentrelations.missouri.edu/>
- Mary Ellen inquired if there are graduate students who might do this.

III. Next Meeting: Fall 2010.

The meeting was adjourned.