

MINUTES

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

December 1, 2011

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Tyrone Davidson, Cecilia Elmore, Stephanie Fitch, Patty Frisbee, Anna Gaw, Larry Gragg, Deanne Jackson, Katie Jackson, Scott Miller, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte, Carol Smith, Nangai Yang, Laura Stoll, Ramya Thiagarajan.

Members Absent: Edna Grover-Bisker, Brooke Durbin, Thulasi Kumar, Rance Larsen, Rachel Morris, Will Perkins, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote, Summer Young.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the November 17, 2011 meeting. A motion was made (Stephen Raper) and seconded (Anna Gaw) to approve the minutes with no corrections.

I. Old Business

- a. No old business.

II. New Business

- a. Initial report for FS11 FTC students not enrolling for SP12
Harvest Collier reported on the numbers of FTC students who had not enrolled or still had advising holds at the beginning of this week.

FTC full time should be 1101 total students.

Laura Stoll recommends calling all of the 100 students identified as not enrolled. Deanne reports that there is a wishlist that students can get on if they cannot register at this time, and there are 320 on that list now. Carol Smith reports that some are not planning to return; others are waiting to see if they have the money for next semester, and are directed to contact financial aid. Harvest Collier suggest we be more proactive and contact these students before they leave campus. Scott Miller reports that of the 170 FEP advising holds, 48 were FSR or transfers that will not be on campus until January, 10 had indicated they were not returning and 13 had withdrawn for the university earlier in the semester. It was suggested that MapWorks would keep track of the student /advisor communications, and Harvest stated that we will look into a demonstration of the project.

- b. FAST Coaching update

HGR students not doing well 36 students in all, are mentored by Summer, Carol and Rachel. Original invitation got no responses. One week later, another message was sent, and Carol got 7/12 to respond. Carol met regularly with the 7 until midterm, only 2 persisted in the meetings until now. Carol also reports that the grades have not significantly improved. Laura asked if the student's instructors were contacted to see if the students were attending classes. The students report that their issues are: getting adjusted, level of work, even after going through HGR

Larry Gragg polled his classes asking why they didn't ask for help, many replied that it was pride, they were not used to asking for help, and many were the people who were asked to help in HS.

Carol said that the FAST students were told about all the academic resources that were available.

Patty Frisbee wants to extend the relationship between the freshmen students and their Opening Week mentors through the first semester. Patty suggests that if we cannot mentor all, we could focus on students going into algebra and Chem 1.

c. Summary of Chem 1 Section AA withdraws

About 200 students in Harvest's Chem 1 lecture. As drop date approached, the students wishing to drop were asked to come to a meeting with Harvest and discuss why they were dropping.

Qualitative results:

Incomplete understanding of academic requirements and effort needed to be successful. Steve Raper asks what percentage didn't have Chemistry in HS. Harvest asks his section, and it is usually small numbers, less than 5%. A few report they had it back in ninth or tenth grade and had forgotten

Not doing the work as a conscious decision. Students don't have any experience with failure, so they didn't know what to do. They complain about the instructors, etc., and no personal responsibility to succeed.

Lost motivation after initial failures. Again, reluctant to ask for help.

Gave up because of frustration at not succeeding, and reluctance to ask for help. Students relate that they didn't want anyone else to know they didn't know. When asked why they think their instructors are there.

Larry Gragg related that he talked with a teacher from Nevada HS who reported she had a student who couldn't cope with failure, and just shut down when faced with failure. Student lacked coping skills.

Many students related that they didn't know what to do. LEAD is encouraged, and Chem 1 students are given bonus points for going. Patty Frisbee related that some students don't feel LEAD is effective, it is too noisy.

Some students, especially some transfer students who were a bit more mature, reported that it was on them, and hoped it would get better as the semester went on.

Steve Raper noted that this habit continues on to the upper level courses, it is not only in the beginning courses.

In speaking with the FAST students or others who come in often, will relate that there are a lot of external influences as well, family problems, etc. Harvest tries to get them to think about the future, co-ops, internships and careers.

Harvest related that when he spoke to students in academic dishonesty cases, the students spoke about pressure to get good grades, the workload and pressure drove them to the dishonesty. Stephanie Fitch shared that also, faculty are being more active in reporting cases of academic dishonesty now.

Tyrone has spoken to some students who say they wished that an advisor at PRO had told them that it would be as difficult as it is.

Stephanie Fitch said that much of what we are talking about is On Course strategies, and we should have a freshmen level course where students receive this information and practice the On Course principles.

III. Next Meeting: December 15st, 2011.

IV. The meeting was adjourned.