

MINUTES

UMR Retention Committee Meeting

October 18, 2007

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Amy Gillman, Larry Gragg, Sunnie Hughes, Mary Ellen Kirgan, C.R. Thulasi Kumar, F. Scott Miller, Barb Prewett, Stephen Raper, Suzanne Schroer, Kristi Schulte, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Christa Weisbrook

Members Absent: Kim Frazier, Jay Goff, Brittany Harrington

Guests: Patty Frisbee, New Student Programs

I. Welcome Guest(s):

The committee welcomed Patty Frisbee of New Student Programs.

II. Review & Approve Minutes (From the 10/4/07 Meeting)

The committee reviewed the minutes from the 10/4/07 meeting and approved them with one revision to section C, paragraph 5.

III. New Business:

A. PRO Survey Results (Patty Frisbee)

Patty Frisbee of New Student Programs gave a presentation summarizing the key findings of the Fall 2007 PRO Survey Results. She distributed a copy of the full report (UMR Entering Student Survey 2007) to the committee.

Key Points & Committee Discussion:

- Patty asked the committee to consider adding new questions to the sophomore survey to see how their responses compare with the freshmen survey.

-Parental Involvement: Patty indicated it's a known fact that parents want to be involved. UMR does not have a central contact for families. Currently it's a fractured process. We need to move toward developing a centralized place on campus that handles family-related issues.

-Financial Issues: 75% of entering students receive financial aid. A second survey would provide beneficial information about debt and financial issues sophomores may be facing.

-Time Management is critical. 75% of entering students report they have to work while taking classes.

-Degree Completion: 69% of students expect to complete their degree in 4 years, 23% expect to complete in 5 years, and only 6% of entering students expect it to

take 6 years or more. 85% of students want to do a co-op (but also want to complete their degrees in 4 years). Where do students get the four year degree expectation? Suzanne Schroer indicated parents play a big role, indicating to some students that they will not pay for college beyond the four years. Patty Frisbee explained that we are now developing the "whole student" not just the "academic student" and student involvement (in outside activities) extends the time frame for students completing their degrees. What do we need to do to inform parents at PRO? Patty Frisbee explained that we need to do more to take care of the parents so they don't make it harder for the students.

-Student Involvement- 91% of students indicate they want to be involved on campus. Steve Raper indicated he has talked to students who admit they cheat because the campus is "too hard", yet they are encouraged to be involved in outside activities. Kristi Schulte suggested advisors (of student organizations) should not be afraid to be intrusive and to advise students not to take on too much. Campus involvement becomes difficult for students during their second year when many students "hit the wall".

-Possible New Questions: Ask students what they expect from their academic advising experience. Consider asking students what level of engagement they expect from the faculty. Include similar questions on the sophomore survey.

B. An Overview of the Oct. 15th Panel Discussion, "The Importance of Prerequisites for Student Success" (Scott Miller)

Due to time constraints, this agenda item will be discussed at the next meeting.

IV. Announcements:

A. October 31- Undergraduate Advising Office Open House- 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, 106 Campus Support Facility.

B. November 5- Academic Advising Luncheon Series- "The UMR Undergraduate Advising Office: Mission, Purpose & Services", 12:00-1:00 PM, Carver/Turner Room, Havener Center

V. Next Meeting: November 1, 2007, 8:15-9:15 AM, Silver & Gold

The meeting was adjourned.