Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting
October 9, 2008
8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Kim Frazier, Amy Gillman, Mary Ellen Kirgan, C.R. Thulas Kumar, F. Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Barb Prewett, Suzanne Schroer, Kristi Schulte, Carol Smith, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Summer Young

Members Absent: Jay Goff, Larry Gragg, Sunnie Hughes, Stephen Raper, Brad Starbuck

Guests: Patty Frisbee and Trish Watson, New Student Programs

I. Welcome: Dr. Collier welcomed Patty Frisbee and Trish Watson of New Student Programs.

II. Review and Approve Minutes: The committee reviewed the minutes from the 9/25/08 meeting. One minor correction was noted. The committee voted to approve the minutes as corrected.

III. Fall 2008 Entering Student Survey: Patty Frisbee presented the results of the Fall 2008 Entering Student Survey. 939 students completed the survey during PRO, before testing.

Students want to be more involved. Fewer discipline issues were observed during Opening Week. Students realize there is an adjustment period and they are ready to learn and participate.

Approximately 50% of all new students are undecided majors. (23% have not chosen a specific major/22% change majors during their freshmen year.) Faculty connection is important. Communication of non-engineering programs is important for student retention.

The Entering Student Survey tells us 31% of students want to study abroad. However, the graduating senior survey indicates that only 3% actually study abroad. Students perceive it as “getting off track”. We need to advertise study abroad programs to students earlier in their academic careers.

75% of students receive scholarships and financial aid. 74% plan to work while enrolled.

67% of students expect to complete their degree in 4 years; however, the Missouri S&T average is 6 years. Only 7% of students understand this. We need to work
with the academic departments to ensure we are all sending the same message to new students and their families.

93% of students expect to be engaged with the faculty outside the classroom.

IV. **Next Meeting:** October 23, 2008.
Dr. Collier and Dr. Kumar will draft a strategy for evaluating survey results.

The meeting was adjourned.