

MINUTES

UMR Retention Committee Meeting

November 1, 2007

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Kim Frazier, Amy Gillman, Larry Gragg, C.R. Thulasi Kumar, F. Scott Miller, Suzanne Schroer, Kristi Schulte, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Christa Weisbrook

Members Absent: Jay Goff, Sunnie Hughes, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Barb Prewett, Stephen Raper

Guest(s): Gerard B. Myles, for Sunnie Hughes

I. Review & Approve Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the 10/18/07 meeting and approved the minutes as written.

II. Old Business:

A. An Overview of the Oct. 15th Panel Discussion, "The Importance of Prerequisites for Student Success"

Following the panel discussion on Oct. 15th, the participants indicated they had more questions than answers regarding pre-requisites.

- Committee Discussion-Students should not have the freedom to change their schedule without advisor approval. Deficient students cannot, however, once their advising hold is lifted they can enroll for any course they want.
- Scott Miller-It is important to have additional discussion regarding who is responsible for ensuring students meet the prerequisites for their courses.
- Amy Gillman- Prior to the next discussion, we should collect data indicating how many students are impacted.
- Lynn Stichnote asked if there is a way to survey the students after advising week.
- Committee Discussion- There is concern that faculty do not want to be evaluated for their advising.
- Larry Gragg- Faculty have expressed that they are evaluated enough and they do not want another instrument established to evaluate the them.
- Kim Frazier suggested establishing a committee comprised of students and faculty to address the assessment of advising in order to improve advisor development (training) programs on the campus. Kim Frazier volunteered to lead this committee.
- Committee discussion- The more collective the advising survey instrument, the better.

- Thulasi Kumar- If the information is collective, what are you going to do with it? How will you use it to make improvements?

B. Follow Up Items from the PRO Survey Results: Due to time limitations, this item was not addressed. The committee will address the issues at a future meeting.

1. Parental Involvement/Dealing with Family Issues
2. Sophomore Survey

III. New Business:

A. Second Year Experience (Dr. Harvest Collier)

Harvest Collier- Our current second year retention rate is 79/80%. Second year retention must increase in order to improve the graduate rate. Dr. Collier distributed a list second year programs/activities at UMR and their current status.

- Committee Discussion- Our sophomore GPA is the lowest. What goes wrong the second year? Many sophomores experience a "slump". Many students get involved on campus at the beginning of their sophomore year and they don't feel the academic pressure until mid-term.
- Larry Gragg- As an advisor, it would be helpful to know all the elements that contribute to "the sophomore slump".
- Gerard Myles- Suggested a sophomore seminar may be beneficial for students.
- Harvest Collier- Suggested we look at the items on the list, identify sophomore student needs for each and develop strategies for meeting those needs.

B. Agenda Items for the Nov. 15 Meeting

Dr. Collier suggested the *Second Year Experience* be a priority item for the next meeting.

IV. Announcements:

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

B. November 8- "What Do You Wish You Had Known About Teaching?"- A Faculty Workshop by Dr. Margaret Gunderson, Associate Director for MU's Education Technologies at Missouri, 2:00-5:00 PM, St. Pat's A, Havener Center. To register- contact Dan Cernusca at dcernusca@umr.edu.

V. Next Meeting: November 15, 2007, 8:15-9:15 AM, Silver & Gold. Chancellor Carney will attend.

The meeting was adjourned.