

MINUTES

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

December 4, 2008

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Amy Gillman, C.R. Thulasi Kumar, F. Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Carol Smith, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Summer Young

Members Absent: Kim Frazier, Jay Goff, Larry Gragg, Sunnie Hughes, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Rance Larsen, Barb Prewett, Stephen Raper, Suzanne Schroer, Kristi Schulte

Guest(s): Jia Ren, Institutional Research & Assessment

- I. Review and Approve Minutes:** The committee reviewed the minutes from the 11/6/08 meeting. The minutes were approved with two minor corrections.

II. Additional Data from the Student Satisfaction Survey (C.R. Thulasi Kumar)

Dr. Kumar presented additional information from the student satisfaction survey. In summary, he indicated the *college experience* has a positive relation with student retention.

The two most important factors for students who said they would return to the university are: 1) students are made to feel welcome at the university, and 2) tutoring services are readily available.

Dr. Kumar compared students' transfer plans with the college experience and there was a split response. The data indicates that students who decide to transfer have made up their mind. (Most of these students are in-state-freshmen.)

Dr. Kumar related it is not the students' overall satisfaction that determines retention- it is the *college experience* that makes the difference. Dr. Collier asked, "How do those students (who leave Missouri S&T) describe their *college experience*?"

Dr. Kumar indicated he could provide a few bulleted items to summarize the overall presentation.

Lynn Stichnote said we can do a better job sharing information about financial reserves. She would like to develop and implement a financial aid communication plan for students.

III. Senior Survey (F. Scott Miller)

Due to time constraints, this topic will be presented at the next meeting.

IV. Next Meeting: December 18, 2008: 8:15-9:15 AM, Silver & Gold, Havener Center

The meeting was adjourned.