

MINUTES

UMR Retention Committee Meeting

September 6, 2007

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Kim Frazier, Amy Gillman, Larry Gragg, Sunnie Hughes, Mary Ellen Kirgan, C.R. Thulasi Kumar, F. Scott Miller, Barb Prewett, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte, Laura Stoll

Members Absent: Jay Goff, Lynn Stichnote, Christa Weisbrook, James Woner

I. Review & Approve Minutes

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 8/23/07 meeting.

II. Old Business:

A. UMR Undergraduate Advising Office

Kim Frazier and Dr. Scott Miller presented information about UMR's new UMR Undergraduate Advising Office. A one page handout was distributed to each committee member.

The Undergraduate Advising Office will assist undecided and academically deficient students. In addition, the office will provide professional development resources that support academic advisors and will provide recognition to outstanding advisors on the campus. The Undergraduate Advising Office web site will go live on 9/7/07. The web address will be: <http://advising.umn.edu> .

In the future, the Undergraduate Advising Office will develop and implement an academic advisor training program to assist advisors on the campus. The goal is to be proactive and reduce the number of students who become probationary and academically deficient. The office will work with UMR department chairs to encourage and/or require faculty attendance at advisor training sessions.

B. "On-Track", Academic Success Program

The Undergraduate Advising Office, in collaboration with several UMR faculty and staff, recently developed and implemented On-Track, an academic success program for UMR students. Copies of the program description and schedule were distributed to the committee.

Kim Frazier indicated the new program includes a combination of elements from the former UMR pilot program, Bradley University's Turning Point Retention Program, and Illinois State's Project Success Program.

- Participating UMR students will register on-line at <http://advising.umn.edu>. Each participant will receive a packet of information. Copies of the student packet were also distributed to the committee.

- This semester, approximately 350 UMR students were invited to participate. (All probationary and academically deficient students are loosely required to participate.) Originally, 51 students enrolled. Of these, 44 students participated in the first week's activities. Following the initial registration period, the entire student body will be invited to participate through the student E Connection.
- The program includes surveys, one-on-one advising sessions and other assessment measures.
- The committee discussed steps that UMR can take to require students to participate. The committee suggested requiring participation by all deficient students who want to re-enroll, and requiring probationary students to participate if they want to enroll for more than 13 hours.

C. Other Discussion Topics:

Disability Support for UMR Students:

- Dr. Collier asked Barb Prewett for information relative to the percentage of UMR students with learning disabilities.
- Dr. Miller asked if advisors can be notified when a student is diagnosed with a learning disability, indicating this would be valuable information for academic advisors to have.
- Barb Prewett recommended contacting Connie Arthur in Disability Support Services for more specific information.
- The committee recommended inviting Student Affairs and Disability Support Services to attend a future meeting.

III. New Business:

A. Using *On Course* Principles in Freshman Engineering-Fall 2007

Dr. Miller indicated FE10 instructors are using On Course principles in the classroom this semester as a way to emphasize student responsibility. On-course instruction methods get students engaged in hands-on activities in the classroom. Example activities they have used this semester include the Wise Choice Process and the Graduation Game (a ring toss activity). In addition, each week, FE10 instructors give students a "Dilemma of the Week" and ask students to respond individually and indicate what actions they would take. (For example, FE10 instructors ask students how they would respond if they received an Academic Alert.) Dr. Miller indicated the use of these teaching methodologies is helping to make the class more student-success focused.

B. Office of Undergraduate Studies 2006-07 Annual Report

The Office of Undergraduate Studies provided the committee with copies of its 2006-07 annual report. Dr. Collier presented the information to the Chancellor's Council on September 5, 2007.

IV. Announcements:

A. The committee was informed of the following advising sessions. They were provided copies of the event flyers and they were asked to post the flyers in their departments.

- *"The Academic Alert System: What Does it Tell Us?"*, 9/12/07, 12:00 PM, UMR Havener Center
 - *"FERPA Requirements: What All Advisors Need to Know"*, 9/19/07, 12:00 PM, UMR Havener Center
- V.** The next meeting will be September 20, 2007, from 8:15-9:15 AM, in the Silver & Gold room of the Havener Center.

The meeting was adjourned.