

MINUTES

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

September 11, 2008

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Kim Frazier, Amy Gillman, May Ellen Kirgan, C.R. Thulasi Kumar, F. Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Barb Prewett, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte, Carol Smith, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll, Summer Young

Members Absent: Jay Goff, Larry Gragg, Sunnie Hughes, Suzanne Schroer

Agenda Items:

- I. Review and Approve Minutes- The committee reviewed the minutes from the 8/28/08 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The committee voted to approve the minutes as written.
- II. Approve 07-08 Annual Report- A motion was made to approve the 2007-08 annual report. The committee voted to approve the report and to provide a copy to the Chancellor's office.
- III. First and Second Year Retention Strategies- Carol Smith and Summer Young of the Office of Undergraduate Studies shared a list of first and second year retention strategies with the committee. (See full list attached) The following items were discussed:
 - A. Hit the Ground Running (HGR)-Consider adding a second HGR session during the month of June.
 - B. Voyager Learning Community-Consider developing a complimentary learning community for second year students.
 - C. Academic Alert System-Increase the number of faculty using the Academic Alert System.
 - D. Honor's Academy/New Student Honors Seminar- New Student Honors Seminar helps students adjust to the campus community. Honor's Academy gives participating students a sense of community beyond their first year.
 - E. Student Success Center- Consider developing a center that houses information about all the academic support services available on the campus. The proposed center should be centrally located and visible to students, parents and visitors.
 - F. Parent Programs- Create a parent-oriented web site featuring student services to help parents feel connected to the campus. Integrate information from the existing Family Guide, a publication parents receive at PRO.

Due to time constraints, Carol and Summer will finish presenting the information at the next meeting.

- IV.** 2008-2009 Retention Committee Goals : A motion was made to establish the following goal for the 2008-09 academic year. The committee voted to approve this goal.

In 2008-09, the Retention Committee will review and evaluate the following reports:

*Non-Returning Student Survey
Fall 2008 Entering Student Survey
Spring 2008 Senior Survey
2007-08 Academic Alert System Report
NSSE Results
Spring 2008 Student Satisfaction Survey
Student Success Predictors*

Next Meeting: September 25, 2008: 8:15 -9:15 AM, Silver &Gold, Havener Ctr.,
Agenda Item: Non-Returning Freshman Report (Amy Cracraft/Laura Stoll, Office of the Registrar)

First & Second Year Retention Plan

Hit the Ground Running- Continue to provide an excellent academic precursor to university expectations.

Voyager- Continue to provide an active living and learning community. Develop complementary living-learning community for second-year students building on current Voyager foundation.

Academic Alert System- Notifies students they are at risk for poor grades via an alert. Increase the number of faculty using the AAS.

New Student Honors Seminar- NSHS introduces first-year students to the resources and opportunities that the campus has to offer.

Honors Academy- Insure a smooth transition from NSHS to the Honors Academy.

Student Success Center- Consider implementing a center that houses all student academic support services (LEAD, JAM, Tutoring, Mentoring, Writing Center, etc.). Rather than being referred between various programs/departments, students could find collection of academic resources in one place.

Parent Programs- Create a parent-oriented website featuring student services so that parents will feel connected and have a resource to help them support their students.

Success Chain- Send periodic emails to new students to help them become aware of the resources available on campus. Target second-year students with emails that describe resources/events to help combat the "sophomore slump."

On Track- On-Track is a personal and academic success course designed to increase student's self-management, motivation and study skills. This program incorporates seminars, campus resources, success workshops, advising conferences and peer mentors to empower students to become self-directed and motivated learners.

Department Focused Retention- Work one on one with department chairs to develop retention strategies unique to department.

Sophomore Dinner Series- Establish monthly or bi-monthly small dinners at the Havener Center with representatives of academic departments. Invitees: sophomores. Hosts: department faculty member, graduate student, senior undergraduate student.

Letters to Parents & Second-Year Students- (summer after first year) Describe SYE programming, increase awareness of second-year issues, invite to returning student programming at beginning of fall semester.

Welcome Back Reception/Programming- Fall semester welcome reception/programming targeted at second-year students.

Major Planning Form- Require that second-year students complete a major planning worksheet/booklet.

"Sophomore Surge" Conference - (over weekend during fall? week before spring semester begins?) Programming to help second-year students with career planning, leadership/work style evaluation, self-management. Possibly include service project and opportunities fair.