Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting
October 21, 2010
8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Gayatri Bhatt, Tyrone Davidson, Anna Gaw, Larry Gragg, Katie Jackson, Zongmin Kang, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Rance Larsen, Rachel Morris, Michael Schwartz, Carol Smith, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll and Melanie Wulf (sub for Will Perkins).

I. Review and Approval of Minutes
The committee members reviewed the minutes from the 10-7-10 meeting. A motion was made (R. Morris) and seconded (C. Smith) to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Old Business
Discuss Retention Committee Annual Report
The Chancellor presentation has been moved from October 21 to December 2, due to scheduling conflicts.
--Harvest Collier explained the goal would be to get the report approved by the committee today and then send it to the Chancellor with an executive summary. A brief presentation will then be given Dec. 2 covering what took place last year and the focus for this year.
--Collier requested that with five work groups, that there would be three slides for each group and the following framework be used:
Slide 1) Share what we were committed to
Slide 2) Share what we learned
Slide 3) Share where there is opportunity for continual improvement.
--Gayatri Bhatt requested slides be sent to her by Tuesday, Nov. 16
--A motion was made (L. Gragg) and seconded (M. Kirgan) to approve the report. The report was unanimously approved.

III. New Business
Schedule for Work Group Presentations
Lynn Stichnote agreed to be chair the financial aid work group.
--The schedule for the remainder of this semester would be: Nov. 4th—Gragg/Collier, Nov. 18th—Stichnote, Dec. 2nd—Chancellor presentation segmented by each work group from 2009 – 2010, Dec. 16th—Stoll.
--Collier confirmed NSEE, FSEE reports are complete and Dr. Kumar will present the information next semester.
--Zongmin Kang cautioned there are 54 items in the survey and requested to select an area for the presentation to focus on by looking at the co-relation between student background and existing performance.

Academic Preparedness/Freshmen Flaws
--Stichnote asked “What are the characteristics of students that overcome and specific actions for their success? The issue can’t be addressed in a PRO Session alone. There is a difference in culture/psychology and students are not ready for failure. Parents of millennial students have adjusted to them since their elementary schooling.
--Collier explained he is interviewing students with LASSI and 85% or more of S&T students are high ability. He sees that students give up on the course and learning float through the remainder of the course.
--Collier described he seeks a commitment for students on areas of improvement:
Will you do it?
How will you do it?
How will you be held accountable?
--Stoll asked instead of the label of academic preparedness, maybe it should be addressed as Freshmen Flaws. It is an
adjustment to the college-level, not academic preparedness.
--Mary Ellen Kirgan shared students lack coping skills. It is hard to change their habits. Not everyone is going to be accommodating to them.
--Stichnote shared there is national data on student persistence from the Kauffman Foundation that tracks students at an early age http://www.kauffman.org/. We can’t change society so the question becomes is there an intervention or not?
--Kirgan observed that 2/3 of her students have not had anything to eat by 11 am and lagged in attentiveness. They don’t realize all of these things work together.
--Gragg shared students explain it is an attention problem. They are concerned with who text them. It is difficult to focus on a task and they procrastinate. Collier supported this by sharing this is similar to LASSI reports.
--Carol Smith shared students are not self aware of their flaws. She has observed this in the Residential College courses within Honors Academy during a writing activity.
--Stoll suggested perhaps adjusting the writing activity to also include a personal interview could help.
--Stichnote suggested perhaps if students thought about it and then they would articulate their flaws.
--Anna Gaw shared perhaps it was the time period that affected the students’ responses.
--Collier shared some have indicated that addiction to texting is becoming a national pandemic. http://www.apa.org/monitor/2009/02/multitaskers.aspx
--Gayatri Bhatt shared concern about finding the right balance between preparing students as leaders for the workforce, where they could be in an environment where they would need to respond to a text message or e-mail during a meeting.
--Stichnote expressed that students need to adjust to the particular environment.
--Gragg expressed that experiencing multiple learning environments is a positive for students.
--Brad Starbuck shared S&T does the Hogan Survey, but maybe the LASSI should be considered.
--Collier shared FE 10 is looking into it.
--Gragg reminded that History 10 already conducts the LASSI with freshman, combined with personal interviews.

Cashiers' Holds
--Cashiers has put a hold on accounts of 270 students that owe more than a $1,000 this semester. An additional 90 holds were placed for students that owed $1,000 from last summer or fall. Of these, 96 students have not even submitted the FASFA in order to issue a loan. This is resulting in a past due amount, hold and the ability to not register for classes for Spring 2011.

Advising Week
--Collier shared Advising Week begins soon.
--Kirgan announced Math 4 is closed and only open for those that need it, upon recommendation from a teacher. Some students might be channeled to Math 2, which is a higher level than Math 3.
--Collier shared there will be future collaborations with Chemistry and Math course selections.
--Tyrone Davidson expressed there are an alarming number of on campus students on academic probation or deficient at 13% and try to start looking into it immediately.
--Kirgan shared she heard from students that the Advising Tree was helpful to see what to take and in what order.

IV. Next Meeting: November 4, 2010 at 8:15 am and the Intrusive Work Group will present

The meeting was adjourned.