

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

November 19, 2009

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Tyrone Davidson, Larry Gragg, F. Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Lea-Ann Morton, Kristi Schulte, Lynn Stichnote, Laura Stoll,

Members Absent: Jay Goff, Sunnie Hughes, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Rance Larsen, C.R. Thulasi Kumar, Stephen Raper, Carol Smith, Brad Starbuck, Amiel Weerasinghe Summer Young

Guests: Alissa Fleck (for C.R. Thulasi Kumar), Patty Frisbee

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the 11-05-09 meeting. A motion was made (Larry Gragg) and seconded (Kristi Schulte) to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. New Business

A. Review of Strategic/Tactical Plan Action Items Adoption

The committee reviewed the Tactical Plan action item 1.2.7 that was adopted for Goal 1.2 by the campus Strategic Planning Committee.

Action 1.2.7: "Establish a parent and family support/outreach services champion and document a plan to improve communication and campus engagement." [OPR: *VPUS, VCSA, and VCUA*]

Patty Frisbee (New Student Programs Office) provided the following overview and discussion on parent and family support.

PROPOSAL OF IDEAS FOR A PARENTS AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

FROM: PATTY FRISBEE

The following are ways we plan to support/outreach to families to improve communication and campus engagement. Most of the projects and programs below will be implemented and completed within 6 months and all activities within a year. (When I mention families I am all-inclusive – spouses, grandparents, siblings, step parents, partners, etc).

1. Change the name of New Student Programs Office to New Student and Family Programs Office.
2. Create a Mission and Vision statement to complement the S&T Campus Mission and Strategic plan.
3. Create and Maintain a Family "Fan" Face-book page for family members of S&T students.
4. Create an on-line newsletter for families.
5. Develop a hard copy brochure for families about resources.
6. Maintain a central Family web-page with links to other parent information on campus and updates on events (i.e. Campus calendar, Res Life, COC, Student Affairs, Admissions, etc – see <http://pro.mst.edu/family/Familyguidebook.html>)
7. Create and maintain a family a blog/Twitter.
8. Purchase and maintain a bulletin board outside family office area. (We may find a used board at surplus).
9. Be the central Family office for directed phone calls and visits on campus concerning family issues for families, faculty, staff, and students.

- a. **Objectives for the above 1-6 projects and services:**
- i. To provide appropriate services in an intentional and purposeful way
 - ii. To educate families on ways to help students take responsibility for their own behaviors.
 - iii. To keep families informed of events and deadlines are coming up on campus (i.e. family day, advising week, registration, graduation, Career fairs, finals week, etc)
 - iv. To explain to families what programs, services, and resources are available for their student (i.e. academic alert, FERPA, LEAD, Library)
 - v. To update families on what their students might be experiencing at certain times in their college career – developmental phases (homesickness, health issues, career concerns, financial issues, etc.)
 - vi. Create short and/or one question survey questions to find out current concerns and/or expectations (i.e. After a critical event on our campus or another campus such as a shooting or health related concern – Do you feel your student safe at S&T? or Do you know what resources are available to assist your student’s health needs?)
 - vii. To update families on S&T students and campus bragging points. (i.e. Did you know that 29% of our students are first generation students?)
 - viii. To evaluate and assess family needs and wants. Analyze results and make changes to continuously improve.
10. Work collaboratively with Student Life on Family Day.
- a. Envision to include an academic component for families to experience(i.e. mini lecture; sit in on certain classes on Friday to experience a class (approved by faculty); let family see and learn about the research being done on campus by a mini lecture or visiting research labs)
 - b. Create a two hour program on family day to include siblings (i.e. meet the football players and have a contest of some sort, meet a faculty member, visit interesting labs) These are our future miners.
11. Work collaboratively with the Parent and Guardian Association
- a. Participate and be an active member in the Association
 - b. Take advantage of volunteers
 - c. Envision to create family groups in large cities to offer receptions to our new students families who would like to hear what other S&T families have experienced.
 - i. Recruit upper class families to sponsor receptions (no cost because it will be a family sponsor).
 - d. Listen to what families need and want for their student
 - e. Implement feasible ideas from discussion.
12. Work collaboratively with other departments on campus with family issues (i.e. Registrar’s, Undergraduate Studies, Residential Life, etc.)
13. Create a campus Family Committee and include pertinent offices (i.e. Student Life, Residential Life, Admissions, Alumni, faculty member, staff member, student, etc.)
- a. **Objective for the above:**
 - i. Discuss family needs
 - ii. Update on family issues and activities
 - iii. Keep up with research
14. Register for membership in the Association of Higher Education Parent/Family Program Professionals
- a. **Objective:**
 - i. Keep up with trends and research in Higher Ed.
 - ii. Forums for Parent Councils/Associations/Boards
15. Communicate with families, students, faculty, staff, S&T and Rolla community.
- The following are some interesting facts and evidence of parental influence on student behavior:**
1. Parent involvement positively related to student’s achievement (office of Educational Research and Improvement OERI, U.S. Department of Education)
 2. 69% of S&T freshmen said it is very important or important to have family and friends involved in their college choice decision. (S&T New Student Entering Survey)
 3. 73% of college students communicate 2-3 times a week with parents (College Parents of America, 2007)
 4. 65% of students seek parental advice (Education Inc. 2006)
 5. Indisputable evidence of parental influence on student persistence (Pope/NSSE, 2007).

The committee discussed the resource needs to conduct these activities. Patty Frisbee offered the web link, <http://www.universityparent.com/>, as a valuable resource to subscribe to. The committee also discussed the collaboration and resources sharing required in order to satisfy the desired outcomes of other parent/family related activities on the campus. The Retention Committee Work Group #2 provided the following statement relative to those activities.

The Retention Committee Work Group #2 - Parent and family support/outreach, enthusiastically supports the proposal to expand the role of the New Student Programs office as described by Patty Frisbee, and endorses the New Student and Family Programs Office concept. As outlined in her proposal, there would be a .25 FTE staff addition needed to accomplish these new ventures.

If it is determined that existing family activities/programs such as Family Weekend, Parent's Association, and the Parent's Association Board are to be centralized and moved to the New Student and Family Programs Office, the Retention Committee Work Group recommends Patty be asked to develop a budget for these activities/programs that are to be transferred, and the necessary funding for the activities/ programs be moved from the current office, to New Student and Family Programs. In some cases, it may be necessary to fund additional FTE, and that funding may need to be split. For example, an additional part-time staff member may need to be hired to work with the Parent's Association and while that person would be in the New Student and Family Programs office, funding for that position may be from the Parent's Association account.

It was recommended that at the next Retention Committee meeting, Work Group #1 - Intrusive Intervention will present an update on the progress of its project.

III. Next Meeting: December 3, 2009- 8:15-9:15 AM, Silver & Gold room, Havener Center

The meeting was adjourned.