

MINUTES

Missouri S&T Retention Committee Meeting

September 23, 2010

8:15-9:15 AM

Members Present: Harvest Collier, Gayatri Bhatt, Tyrone Davidson, Anna Gaw, Jay Goff, Larry Gragg, Katie Jackson, Mary Ellen Kirgan, F. Scott Miller, Rachel Morris, Lee-Ann Morton, Stephen Raper, Kristi Schulte, Michael Schwartz, Carol Smith, Brad Starbuck, Lynn Stichnote and Laura Stoll.

Members Absent: Zongmin Kang, Rance Larsen, Will Perkins, Stephanie Rostad, Michael Schwartz and Summer Young.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes

The committee members reviewed the minutes from the 9-9-10 meeting. A motion was made (S. Raper) and seconded (C. Smith) to approve the minutes with stated corrections. The minutes were unanimously approved with the amendments.

II. Old Business

Discuss Retention Committee Annual Report

A draft will be sent by e-mail for review and discussion at the October 7th meeting. Once approved, the report will be presented to the Chancellor.

III. New Business

Retention Rate

--Jay Goff shared this year's number is 86.1%. Last year's number was 87.7, which was rounded to 88% for 1st to 2nd year retention rate. The difference reflects 26 more students and 25 on academic probation that did not return.

--Laura Stoll commented that two percentage points make a significant difference at this point.

Graduation Rate

--Goff explained the graduation rate is over 66%. This reflects the first cohort of majors that S&T made the push to not go undecided and encouraged students to go into a major.

--Tyrone Davidson explained that just because it says UGS—Undecided, it just means they are not back in their department.

Unmet Need

Rachel Morris passed out a document with two charts of data:

- 1) 2004 – 2008 Non Returners by Unmet Need
- 2) Family Income of the Zero Unmet Need

Non-Returning Students

--Carol Smith made a PowerPoint presentation on Fall 2009 First Time College Cohort Non-Returning for Fall 2010. (Non-Returning Student Survey).

Who was called?

--Smith clarified that probation students were not called.

--Anna Gaw expressed probation students should be called and Scott Miller agreed.
--Goff explained that after two semesters if a student remains on probation, they would lose their scholarship.
--Smith explained the majority of the students have an ACT score of 24 or above.
--Mary Ellen Kirgan shared the majority of the students are not successful in Math 4, but she is not able to understand why. Harvest Collier is asking the same question as to why. Those ACT scores that are below 19 will struggle here.
--Goff explained the Floyd rule implemented under UM System President, Elson Floyd.

When to call?

--Stoll stated it would be a little easier to make contact after 5pm.

Why do they leave?

--Smith explained most students that leave do not have anything negative to say about leaving. There is no trend as to why the leave. The reasons vary. It is difficult to reach them.

Where do they go?

--Stoll requested that if Smith does get confirmation that they join the military to let her know so she can declare them as an exception.

--Goff shared a lot of the well known private institutions are beefing up their enrollments because their endowments took such a hit. They need enrollment up and will go back to their wait list to maximize their numbers. An example given was Washington University in St Louis. They kept their freshman class at 1200 and went to 1400 last fall so they are up to 1600 freshmen out of 23,000 applications. But purely economics, they need the revenue. Not a trend, but it is getting competitive as the markets shrink in the northeast and midwest, students are going to have options. Total cost of attendance for out of state student to compete with a private institution is shrinking in difference. The examples given were Saint Louis University and Webster University.

--Larry Gragg shared he had one student that wanted to go into Education and went to Maryville and is having regrets because he is not having as good of an experience.

- IV. Harvest Collier presented a draft PowerPoint Chancellor Presentation for initial discussion, reflecting the 2009 -2010 academic year. Further discussion will continue at the next meeting.
- V. Tabled the item of "Finalize Work Group Members and Chairs" for the next meeting, because of limited time.
- VI. **Next Meeting:** October 7, 2010 at 8:15 am with an update on 4th Week Enrollment Data.

The meeting was adjourned.