

MINUTES  
MINORITY RETENTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2008  
12:30 – 1:30 P.M., BENTLEY S-05

In attendance: Laurie Cannady, Gayatri Devi, Pat Guerriero, Kenny Hall, Melinda Hodge  
Special student guest: Paulette Davidson

Laurie called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.  
Laurie forwarded the minutes from the last meeting for approval. Melinda made a motion to approve the minutes. Gayatri seconded the motion.

**New Business**

*Surveys*

Kenny will be the contact for the survey data analysis. Any changes to the focus group survey that Gayatri created should be sent to her via e-mail.

Laurie talked about *focus groups*. The makeup will be 8 students each in 3 groups, consisting of freshman, upperclassman, with an equal male to female ratio. Pat suggested that extra-curricular students such as athletes should be included in the 3<sup>rd</sup> group. Focus groups could consist of “Distinguished Gentleman”, LSA, BSU, ASA, but not international groups.

Gayatri suggested we meet twice with each focus group, at various times throughout the semester. Pat mentioned that we should at least meet with the freshman before the 6<sup>th</sup> week, and the other groups after midterms. Gayatri also presented a copy of the survey questions for next semester.

Gayatri mentioned we will need clearance from the IRB (Institute Review Board), in order to get incoming freshman test scores. Laurie will get the names and gpa's.

Paulette said we should “tag” focus group students from the beginning, so that they can come to us about various situations, and we can set them right before its too late.

Laurie said we'll meet in late April, and we'll get one of the groups to come to the meeting.

*Retention issues*

The committee discussed how problems getting financial aid in a timely manner, may have a bearing on a students grades by not allowing for them to get their books or supplies in a timely manner. This could in turn, affect retention.

Laurie said that many of the students only see the “here and now”, and don't see the educational process to the end. Paulette mentioned that she had a hard time with motivation when she first was here, and needed for her heart to be in it, before it worked for her. One needs the mentality they need to do the work, or else the alternative is to just go home. Paulette said Kenny set her up with a student to develop a “trust bond”, which can help that person get through almost anything.

*Conference*

Laurie will ask Dean White and Dean Ormond for conference monies.

*Reminders*

- \*Pat asked that committee members send him our Fall schedules, so we can plan for next years meetings.
- \*There will be one more meeting before the semester ends, tba.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Hodge

