

Academic Council Minutes
August 3, 2006

Present: Green, Hakes, Dibie, Kintzele, Cantu, Cass, Roales, Stachacz, Stroman, Aniskiewicz

Guests: Barnes, Atkins, Hildebrand, Hough

1. Probation Program – Cathy Barnes has been working with students on probation to them raise their GPA and stay in school. She meets with them weekly. Early contact with someone who understands our policies and procedures appears to make a difference in students' success and persistence. All advisers are asked to consider participating in a program with workshops for students designed to support them and to track the student's progress and the effectiveness of the program. This program is not mandatory at this time. To maximize effectiveness, programs of intervention like this one need to become part of the regular institutional structure. For this to occur, student participation would have to be required and the program would also have to be scalable to accommodate far larger numbers than are currently involved.

In addition, I have asked Cathy to bring back information on the student profiles that are most likely to encounter academic difficulty in the freshman year. My question is why wait to intervene if we can reasonably predict who will need additional support. We should strongly consider being proactive and try to support students before they go on probation, while still having a program for those students who do find themselves on probation after one or two semesters.

Accordingly, we have asked Cathy and Gerry to look at the following:

- A. The metrics we are going to use to determine program effectiveness. What is the real benefit to the institution? We should probably do a study to compare students who do not participate. What is their outcome?
 - B. We should consider on-line meetings with students to more effectively use the technology to engage them.
 - C. A proposal is invited with the expectation that the current activity will continue in an expanded format for a year, gather metrics and comparative data before next year's budget is due and submit a proposal for approval to the Academic Council in advance of the approval of a campus budget.
2. Scheduling Survey – Hough distributed a questionnaire to be edited and distributed to students online later in the fall. of class. The questionnaire will provide input from students regarding their perceptions about the schedule. . With high gas prices, many students may want to cut back on travel time.
 3. VC Green raised the issue of examining ways of helping students needing part-time work to find more work here on campus to keep them from having to leave campus.

4. A draft policy on registration cancellation for students never attending was also passed out. A letter would also be sent to the students informing them of this.
5. Space Utilization Update – the State gave us back approximately \$344,000 for repair and rehabilitation. We are going to use these funds to put a new roof on the East Bldg and abate the 2nd floor of the Main building and the Bogle Room.

In addition, we are planning the following:

- In order to meet the need for additional large lecture spaces, we plan to create two large lecture halls over the summer of 2007 by redoing the space in the OY (observatory lecture space) for 80 students and adding a second space on the first floor of the East Building. We will also make KE 125 the art room and the room the Perkins tutor currently uses into one large lecture room.
 - Art will move to the Early Outreach building.
 - The LEC's activities will move to the Library in January.
 - CE will move into the old LEC space and will take on the responsibilities of placement testing.
 - The Anderson property will be developed as a future conference center.
 - The meadows house will be razed.
6. Announcements – Jack has issued a call for August 15 enrollment event. Enrollment is behind. Advisers should contact non-registered students one more time and try to get them here.

We are participating in student voter initiative. Remind faculty and have them talk to their students and watch for additional information from Kathy Parkison.