Admissions, Records, Scheduling, & Student Aid
9-10-2013
Minutes


Members Absent: Stephen H. Browne, Henry J. Donahue

Guests: Daniel Murphy

The meeting was called to order at 8:30AM.

Minutes from the April 23rd, 2013 meeting were approved and are posted in ANGEL.

Review of Committee Charges for 2013-2014

Committee Assignments

a. ARSSA rep on Retention and Transfer subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Curricular Affairs (1 rep): David Babb
b. Student appeals of grant-in-aid decisions (2 reps): Douglas Wolfe, Jyotsna Kalavar
c. Review articulation agreements (2 reps): Anne Rohrbach, Anna Griswold
d. Record meeting minutes (1 volunteer per meeting): October - Douglas Wolfe

NSO update: presenter: Daniel Murphy, Director for Student Orientation and Transition Programs, University Park

This new (one year old) office oversees incoming testing and placement programs, new student orientation at UP & in future NSO at the Commonwealth Campuses. This past year there was a language change from FTCAP to "new student orientation" (NSO). Instead of one day, NSO is now a two day experience. Out of 8,300 new students at UP, 8,250 attended NSO. Family participation remains the same. There were no issues with the overnight stay in the residence halls. Overall there were only two conduct issues. Fears about changes were unfounded.

- Students were more involved in second day discussions about academic choices. Overall they were more active & engaged in programming than in previous years.
- Parents who had also attended FTCAP liked NSO better. Robinett: "all parents talked to who attended both preferred NSO".
- NSO allows students to learn more about getting involved, talk more about alcohol drugs, sexual assault, etc.
- Students participated in financial discussions that previously only involved parents.
- Students liked living as a college student for one day.
- NSO at each campus will need to match the culture of that campus.
- Q: What were the objectives of the move to NSO?
  A: FTCAP did not address comprehensive student experience (only academic). Wanted students to better share in all of the discussion & be prepared to make good personal choices (risks, resources, etc). Better able to share information regarding the General Education curriculum.
- Q: Were international students incorporated into the NSO model?
  A: 65-70 students who had already arrived participated, but Office of Global Programs conducted their traditional program in August.
- Q: Are there any plans to institute programs that continue to support students throughout the semester?
  A: Yes...though the current emphasis is to get them from ‘paid accept’ status to the start their first semester. ‘Welcome Week’ which includes ‘Be a Part from the Start’ and ‘Penn State Reads’ (book program where students have an opportunity to meet with author and have discussions centered around the book in FYS) are examples of programs that extend beyond NSO. Office only focuses on paid-accepts. Ultimately want to support students through first year so that they come back for the second. NSO can begin discussions about important issues that continue throughout the academic year.
- Q: What about transition students from the Commonwealth Campuses?
  A: Work is needed in this area. An optional 1-day orientation is offered but not widely attended (25% of all transfer students participated). These students are often unaware of available resource services. These students have perceptions about their ability to succeed that may not match the reality.
- Q: Could a video be produced to help orient the 75% of transfer (& other populations) students who do not attend NSO?
  A: Looking into online orientation. No peer for best practices, but office is looking into gathering information (World Campus may be a resource).
• Q: Was on campus employment discussed?
   A: Yes... both from a time management perspective and also in the form of a job fair for those who are interested.

LionPath (ISIS replacement) update
The current ISIS system (~30 years old) is no longer serving all of the University’s needs. PSU has decided to purchase a new student system. They worked with a steering committee and a consultant group and an executive committee to learn how to select a vendor that best meets our needs and how to conduct business better alongside a new system. The system requirements were identified. RFP went out in March and the committee reviewed proposals. PSU is currently in negotiation with a vendor and a Board of Trustee decision is expected by Sept 20 to approve the funding. This is being looked at as a capitol project w/ funding over a 3 year period. Implementation should take 3 years (starting in January 2014). Michael Büsges was hired as the project director and will present to the Senate in October or December. He will send the PowerPoint presentation to our committee for feedback prior to the presentation. With the new system, students without required prerequisites should not be able to register for a course without a manual override. Experts from all offices will oversee the rollout along with an implementation team. There are plans to assemble a faculty advisory committee. Need to involve Curricular Affairs and other relevant Senate committees. This may present an opportunity for student workers to get real world experience.

Discussion of Policy 54-00 - Academic Warning, Drop Action, and Reinstatement
We have been asked to review and recommend revisions to Policy 54-00. These policies must be brought into alignment with existing financial aid policies.

Revisions to Policy 02-50 & 10-00 (Provisional Students)
Provisional student policies have been in effect for decades and need revision. This past year Student Aid did a comprehensive review of compliance with all federal financial aid regulations and found compliance issues specific to provisional students receiving financial aid. To receive financial aid a student must be a regular admit (full-time, degree seeking). Students who have not completed all of the requirements to be a regular admit are classified as provisional students. Our provisional students are degree seeking students but some of the policies indicate that provisional students are a different class of student from full-time degree-seeking students. The policies indicate that provisional students are not fulltime regular students however, in practice, students admitted provisionally are full-time degree seeking students. Senate policy needs to be aligned with current practice. We need to change policy to state that admitted students who do not fully meet the conditions for regular admission (currently referred to as provisional students) will be removed from conditional status once they meet the criteria established to stay in their program. There was discussion as to whether the University still needs the ‘provisional student’ classification. The offices of Student Aid and Admissions will work on the issue and report back to this committee.

Articulation Agreements
A proposal between the School of Nursing and the Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing at Schuylkill Health was submitted to ARSSA by Rae Brown for review. Members of the articulation agreement subcommittee will review the document and provide their feedback.

New Business:
Proposed schedule changes for campuses in 2014
Several campuses have expressed a number of concerns over the proposed common schedule to be implemented in 2014 (same start times with 15 minutes between classes at all campuses). ACUE approved this change to the schedule but there was no consultation with ARSSA. Robert Kubat agreed to be the ARSSA rep to a committee being formed to examine the issue. Questions were asked about how many students would be served by the change versus those affected by negatives of the change. Also how many people actually know about the change?

Credit Overload Issue
Some students schedule in excess of 19 credits so they do not have to schedule an extra semester in order to graduate. They no longer need an adviser to sign off on an overload. What is considered a reasonable overload? How many credits should a student be allowed to schedule before they are charged extra fees by the University?

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45AM

Next meeting 8:30AM October 22nd in 112 Shields Bldg.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha W. Aynardi, Chair