

Undergraduate Advising Council

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Minutes

Dana Myers, UAC Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:30pm

UF Core Program: History & Path Forward: Dr. Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

A summary of Dr. Lindner's speech:

In 2013, the pre-eminence legislation indicated that our students should have a shared experience.

The UF Core model adopted its first course, What is the Good Life. The idea was to expand the UF Core to two additional courses. In 2014/15 there was a call to the academic colleges to submit proposals for a course in Social Science and in Natural Science. A minimum of three colleges would submit these suggestions as part of a grand challenge proposal. Two courses were developed and piloted, Climate Change (N) and People and Data (S), with adding What is the Good Life (H), to make the UF Core, 3 courses at 9 hours.

When Dr. Lindner was hired in September, the Provost asked her to make the UF core happen! She ended up speaking with many people over the course of three months; and over Christmas break, wrote the UF Core report.

At this meeting, Dr. Lindner handed out: "Proposed Model for the UF Core program" and a list of UF Core Program Members handouts. She noted that the launch will be in Fall 2018. The Common thread for our students will be their exploring the following questions: Who am I? Why am I here? What are my gifts? What are the needs of the world? Career exploration will also be embedded in these reflection questions. The students will create and develop electronic portfolios throughout their 4 years of experiences.

She noted that What is the Good Life course will possibly have a name change. The task forces that have been assembled for year's #1 – 4 of our students' stay at UF will explore the meaning and values of life. All four experiences (years) will ideally track our students' growth.

From the "Proposed Model for the UF Core Program" handout, year 1 will be a minimum of one course and will start as the first year Florida experience. The intent of this experience will be the exploration of meaning and values of life as individuals and members of local and global communities.

UF Core Experience 2 will allow our students to choose a minimum of one course that could include the following: Climate Change, People and Data, a UFIC-Led Course, Extreme Events (a collaborative course created by 6 different academic colleges; on learning how different disciplines work together a human centered design), or other possible courses. In this experience, it is about the exploration of the world and its needs; how to open up our students to the greater needs of the world. Continuation of questions on majors will occur this year.

The UF Core Experience 3 will consist of from 0 to 3 credit hours and will include experiential opportunities such as: internships, co-ops, study abroad, community service, research, public service and design experience and competition. The reflection question addressed in this year will be one of how to experience the world to improve the lives of a larger community.

The final year, UF Core Experience 4 is optional. Colleges and departments may have a capstone experience for their students if they wish. This experience is a way for students to synthesize their learning in the UF core experiences 1 - 3 and in the major. It is a final year Florida experience.

Dr. Lindner said that the task force for all 4 years will include an e-portfolio experience. She gave us a handout of each task force for each year and who is on the m. She said that anyone who is interesting in being on a task force, to please let her know.

A Graphic Art student, Maria Pitt, created a logo for the UF Core. It has a ship making its way through rough waters (waves) toward the sun. The waves are reflective of the challenges in life; and the student on the ship, is seen to set sail into the world. The color themes are orange and blue. This logo's image is similar to our state of Florida's seal with a Ship in the background on water.

Assessment can be made through the e-portfolio. A platform will be developed to allow flexibility as an expanded transcript for potential employers. Audio narratives will be archived in the UF libraries.

Throughout the experiences peer mentors and faculty mentors will be working with students to connect meaning and values. Dr. Lindner noted that she has a number of Emeritus faculty who are excited to help out as well.

She noted that the UF Core will help with retention and resilience of our students. Workshops will occur in Fall with training on how to make meaning part of courses and experiences. A common book may be Michelle Murray and Robert Nash's *Helping College Students Find Purpose: The Campus Guide to Meaning Making*. Another possible book may be the *Purposeful Graduate* by Tim Clydesdale.

Questions/Answers included:

-a Question on writing inclusion: Writing will be embedded within all experiences.

-a Question on the e-portfolio: It will complement the UF Transcript for our students. Possibly its platform will be through Gator Career Link (CRC). In the first year, talk will include: majors and careers and how meaning will be incorporated in these areas. Dr. Lindner said they have involved the community in these existential discussions, include pastors, etc.

-a Question was if Canvas may be a good platform to use: Dr. Lindner noted that whatever platform we use, it will need to be convenient to faculty and to students. She mentioned that our students will be involved in story telling (audio essays) and that an oral history of each person will be archived. She said that goal is that

every graduate knows their purpose and can deal with life's waves (resilience) with a number of good people that they know to support them.

-a Question about UFO/nontraditional students and the UF Core: Dr. Lindner said that there will possible be some reflective type of work for these students. She said that we cannot require the UF Core of our upper division Transfer students, just freshmen.

By November 2017 is when the major marketing (web site, etc.) needs to be started for the UF Core Program. Marketing will be, "This is what it means to be a Gator!"

-a Question on the wording, "you are required to take a course ..." Task forces will work on language, marketing. Dr. Linder said that we need to be clear what students will get out of it. Dr. Lindner has been meeting monthly with her UG Student Advisory Board to work on all these items.

-a Question on who will monitor and monitor year #3 (experiential year): She said that it will not be the advisers; there has to be an easy way. She will work with the UG Student Advisory Board and internal and external stake holders.

-a Question if the Freshmen Common Book will be part of this: She is hopefully that it will be. Student Affairs and Academic Affairs have had some nice collaboration so far on this Core Program and will continue to do so. As above, a common book may be Michelle Murray and Robert Nash's *Helping College Students Find Purpose: The Campus Guide to Meaning Making*. Another possible book may be the *Purposeful Graduate* by Tim Clydesdale.

This completed this part of the meeting; and we thanked Dr. Lindner for her overview and time!

Committee Updates:

Communications: Kenneth sent out The UF Advisor today which included the new leadership.

Advisor Certification: No update

Campus Affairs: No update

Professional Development:

Allison spoke about the opportunities coming up in May, June, & July (a summer series). They include: May 18, a NACADA Webinar, Demystifying Research in Academic Advising. June 13, James Radtke, LT, USN will share info on the needs of ROTC students. July 18, Dr. Matt Jacobs will speak abo the International Scholars Program. She asked Advisors to please RSVP early on! All workshops will be capped at 50 due to room seat availability. If you RSVP and have to cancel, please let her know.

Allison also mentioned that Cynthia Sain is in the process of collecting the pre-eminence information from the session at the February UF Advisor Conference.

Other Updates: Toby Shorey

Toby said that on ONE.UF (student admin) that students will be able to view critical tracking; they will also be able to see a second and third major, certificate and a second minor.

The UG Student Advisory Board and SGA have been giving them feedback and Enterprise is looking at moving forward. The audits will be viewable via cell phones and include things like major, minors an excess hours. In Fall 2016 the testable prototype will go from a test to Beta (students trying it out). Toby has asked that Advisors be able to see the student view.

Prototyping will happen in July, to determine what we do and what we need to do. Toby encouraged Advisors to sign up for days/times to do this from June 20 - July 14 (Times will run from 9am-12 noon or 1-4pm).

COMPASS: on March 1, 2017 the new audits will be flipped on. Toby will need people from each college to help.

Other Business/Announcements:

Innovation Academy is recruiting for Transfer students, accepted applications.

ALEKS (Chem/Math) placement exam will be required for MAC 1105, 1140, 1147, 2311, and 2233 (but it will not be required for AIM students). Lynn O'Sickey had sent an email via UF Advisors listserv on 4/5/2016 about this.

The pre-Health advisors are moving to Walker hall while construction is being done.

The CALS Dean's offices are moving to areas in McCarty halls while renovations are being completed.

Glenn Kepic is the new representative to the UAC for UFO.

Our student UAC representative was not able to make this meeting, but Dana can be in touch with her if you need to communicate.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is scheduled for May 19th, 3:30pm, 240 Rinker.