

# Undergraduate Advising Council

Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

## Minutes

Allison welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:30PM. Minutes were approved from the November 2017 meeting.

### Discussion with Dr. Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs:

- 1) UF is in a time of change, so we want to have a mentality of change so we are in the best position to be ready for the changes to come.
  - a) We do have a lot of flexibility and opportunities for creativity.
- 2) NACADA Consultation
  - a) The two goals are:
    - i) The goal is to ensure that advisors are aware of the critical role they play in timely graduation.
      - (1) UF is currently at a 67% four year graduation rate, which puts us at #11 in the country in terms of public universities.
      - (2) Every increase in percentage point is about 66 students.
    - ii) What is the appropriate and effective use of data analytics?
      - (1) The NACADA consultants discussed how data analytics will change what advising looks like.
      - (2) We want to be ready for it and ensure that it doesn't cause additional burden on advisors.
  - b) The NACADA consultants will produce a report with recommendations, and the consultants will keep in mind the burden on advisors and what additional resources may be needed.
  - c) The goal is to have a draft of the itinerary for the consultants produced after the holiday break.
    - i) The consultants will be meeting with administration, advisors, and students.
  - d) Dr. Lindner wants to make sure that advisors take ownership and enjoy this consultation process.
  - e) Feel free to send Dr. Lindner your thoughts about the consultation or any other topics.
- 3) Dr. Lindner will be presenting two options for our calendar to the Faculty Senate in January, meeting requests from advisors and faculty.
  - a) The first request, from advisors, is that UF starts the Spring semester later than January 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> to give a few additional days of preparation before Spring starts.
  - b) The other request, from faculty, is to not have final exams scheduled for so close to the deadline to submit grades.
  - c) Advisors are welcome to attend the Faculty Senate or watch the meeting online.
  - d) One of the calendar options decreases the number of days, since UF schedules more days than what is required.
  - e) The other option is to hold final exams on Sundays.
  - f) This wouldn't be implemented for another 4-5 years.
  - g) Eliminating reading days is not an option.
- 4) Final Exams
  - a) Calculus/Chemistry/Physics
    - i) We are moving forward in Spring with a pilot to have separate Calculus, Chemistry, and Physics final exam days.
    - ii) This is to mitigate the program where students have all three exams on the same day.

- iii) This will initially be piloted with a small group of students for potential to expand to all students in the future.
  - b) Cumulative Final Exams Prior to Finals Week
    - i) Dr. Lindner is requesting help from advisors to let her know about courses that are doing this.
      - (1) If a student tells you about this, they can write an anonymous submission to Dr. Lindner's office.
    - ii) It is against UF policy to hold cumulative final exams prior to final exam week.
    - iii) In the future, Dr. Lindner's office plans to check syllabi at the beginning of the term, although some instructors do not list this on their syllabus.
- 5) Upper Division Tracking
  - a) This is a mandate from the Provost.
  - b) Every degree program must have tracking milestones for each semester, including beyond semester 5.
  - c) The initial critical tracking proposal was for every semester, but the compromise at the time was just for the first five semesters.
  - d) Dr. Lindner will be meeting with Undergraduate Coordinators in the Spring.
  - e) This will not be instituted until Fall 2019.
  - f) Programs need to have their plans submitted by the end of April for approval.
    - i) Some proposed plans may need to go through UCC depending on the benchmarks they are proposing.
    - ii) Toby will be working on programming these into degree audits once the plans are approved.
  - g) Programs can increase their tracking GPA requirements but there will be extra scrutiny for those increased requirements.

The following questions were provided to Dr. Lindner by UAC members in advance of the December meeting. Questions are in blue, and Dr. Lindner's responses are in black.

- 1) What counts as four-year graduation? May graduation in the fourth year? June? August? We were told by Marie Zeglen that summer grads count in the four-year rate. Is this still accurate? It differs depending on who is measuring it. Dr. Cathy Lebo typically measures graduation for a year as Summer B through Summer A of the next year.
- 2) How does major change impact graduation? Does changing your major sophomore year predict later graduation than changing frosh year?  
If a student changes his or her major more than twice, there is a profound impact on graduation. For one or two major changes, it doesn't have a significant impact on graduation.
- 3) Freshman Interest Groups have been mentioned in the presentation. What data is there on FIGs at large research universities like UF that indicates this would improve graduation rates? Dr. Evans is working on this and Dr. Lindner will ask her to present this information to the advising community.
- 4) What if a student doesn't NEED to take more credits than 12 a term to graduate on time, due to incoming credits (e.g. brings in 45 credits to UF)?  
It depends. There will be a Think 30 Campaign to encourage students to take 30 credit hours. If block tuition does not happen, it is fine for a student to take 12 (as long as they don't need more

than 12) as long as they are on track for timely graduation. Students who also come in with a great deal of credits should think more about combined degrees, or how to use those credits more proactively. The plan is to advertise combined degree programs more, including offering scholarship opportunities.

We want students to embrace the timely graduation mentality. The hope is that we can raise UF from 67% four year graduation to 73-74% four year graduation.

- 5) What are the characteristics of students who graduate in four years?
  - a. Do they have higher SAT/ACT scores?
  - b. Do they have higher HS GPAs?
  - c. Are they more likely to be in certain majors starting in their freshman year (excluding Engineering)?
  - d. Are they more or less likely to change majors?
  - e. Are they less likely to have dropped a course or earned less than a C in a course?
  - f. Are they less likely to have taken a MAC, CHM or ECO course?

Dr. Lindner cannot provide this data today but will be sending it out to advisors.
  
- 6) What are the characteristics of students who are successful in taking 15 credits or more in their first term and how does that contrast with students who take 15 or more and don't successfully complete all the credits? Is there a relationship to major, certain courses, SAT/ACT scores, HS GPA or other factors?

Dr. Lindner cannot provide this data today but will be sending it out to advisors.
  
- 7) Is there a relationship with being off-track, especially more than once, to taking longer to graduate?

Dr. Lindner cannot provide this data today but will be sending it out to advisors. Provost Capaldi had co-authored a paper on this that Dr. Lindner will send out.
  
- 8) If a student's schedule has 13 or 14 credits, are we going to be encouraging the student to take 16 or 17 credits if they don't actually need the credits to graduate in 4 years? What if a student can't get a class he/she needs or can't take it due to lack of prereqs? Should they take 'anything' or will UF provide additional sections of courses?

If block tuition happens, it will likely be based on a model of students paying for 30 credits a year. There is a lot up in the air about block tuition right now, so stay tuned!
  
- 9) How should advisors frame the conversation for the students who need to work while taking courses and it may not be in the best interest to graduate in four years?

The priority needs to be on students graduating, and we do not want the timely graduation policies to prevent students from graduating. The micro grant program has been very successful so far in catching students who would not have been able to continue at UF without the micro grant. Students approved by the DRC for a reduced course load will be fully accommodated.
  
- 10) What is the return investment to the institution for students graduating in four years?

It is part of our mission as a public university to serve as many students as best we can, so we can take more students if students graduate in a timely manner. The goal is to focus on students who can graduate in four years, and better prepare them for life after graduation instead of

having them stay for an additional year if they aren't pursuing something specific (i.e. a combined degree). The goal is to also capture students who need our help.

11) How will internships be impacted?

Internships will be part of the requirements for UF Quest as part of the experiential component. Most universities waive the block tuition requirement for students participating in an internship. The Provost has already started to talk with the Deans about offering courses more regularly to allow students to stay on track.

12) How is four year graduation calculated, by how many semesters of enrollment (if they take time off), or when the student enrolls at UF?

Timely graduation is measured by the calendar, when students enroll at UF, so doesn't "stop" if a student takes a semester off. But, Dr. Lindner wants to make sure that we focus on student success and getting additional resources to help students.

13) How do students who transfer out of UF impact graduation rates?

These students count against UF graduation rates. The hope is to retain students but that may not be in the best interest of the student.

14) Do transfer students count towards graduation rates?

So far, transfer students are not incorporated into timely graduation.

15) Is the four year graduation message being communicated to K-12?

Yes, recruiters will be delivering that expectation to prospective students.

16) Concerns about the COMPASS training on major changes, and wanting to be able to test out the system before it goes live.

Dr. Lindner and Toby will share those concerns. Please take the major change training before it goes live on January 16<sup>th</sup>. HR will also be hosting live training sessions in January.

### **Committee Updates**

Elections are coming up in March. We will be making a formal call for nominees at the January meeting, with elections in March, since there will not be a February meeting due to the UAC Conference.

Campus Affairs: Christy Shorey will be coming to the January meeting to talk about UF's Institutional Repository. Sophie is not planning to continue, so this position will be up for election in March.

Certification: No updates. Kat will not be continuing as chair, so the Advisor Certification Chair position will be up for election in March.

Communication: No updates. Nicole is in the first year of a two-year tenure, so this position will not be up for election.

Preeminence Task Force: There are plans for a Qualtrics survey, and Larah will be continuing as chair of the Preeminence Task Force.

Professional Development: The UAC Conference proposal deadline has been extended to January 5<sup>th</sup>. Help is needed with the door prizes and swag bag committee, so please let Brittany know if you are interested in help. Brittany is in the first year of a two-year tenure and will be continuing, so this position will not be up for election.

### **Chair Updates**

- 1) Conference call with the NACADA Keynote Speakers:
  - a) There will be a lot of information that needs to be acquired in preparation for the 3 day visit of the NACADA consultants.
    - i) If you are interested in helping, please let Allison know.
    - ii) Ruth Darling, Nancy King, and Rich Robbins will be the 3 NACADA consultants coming to evaluate UF in February.
- 2) We are still in search of a UAC student representative
  - a) Expectation is to attend the monthly SACHUA meetings and share the voice of students.
  - b) If you have any students you'd like to nominate, please pass their names and contact information to the steering committee.
- 3) The chair position will also be available as Allison will be stepping into the past chair role.
  - a) Please talk to Allison, Christine, or Dana if you have any questions about the responsibilities of UAC chair.
- 4) Career Showcase
  - a) January 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> from 9AM-3PM in the Exactech Arena at the O'Connell Center.
- 5) Gator Career Closet Expo
  - a) Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 1AM-1PM in Plaza of the Americas.
- 6) Counseling and Wellness Center is slated to hire 8 more lines by Summer 2018.
- 7) Freshman applications are over 40,000.

### **Other Updates**

UF Online: No updates