

Council of Associate Deans (CAD) Minutes
January 7, 2014
202 Tigert Hall

Present: Tammy Aagard, Peggy Carr, Tom Dana, Stephanie Hanson, Chris Janelle, Angela Lindner, Bernard Mair, Ed Schaefer, Jen Day Shaw, Joe Spillane, Horace Tucker, Theresa Vernetson, Andrew Wehle, Michael Weigold, M. Dee Williams, Al Wysocki, and Marie Zeglen

Absent: David Pharies

Guest: Jeff Citty

The meeting was called to order by Bernard Mair at 1:34 p.m.

1. Minutes of the December Council of Associate Deans' Meeting

The minutes from the December meeting were approved.

2. 2014 Fall Connection – Jeff Citty

Citty requested colleges to revise their list of Fall Connection courses. He reminded them that these courses should be 100% online and suitable for incoming freshmen and requested submission by the first week of February. A discussion of student performance followed.

- Overall, students did well and the grades were good. However, some students who did not do as well and some withdrew.
- General Psychology had the most withdrawals and lowest grades. No student received an A in the course. Spillane does not want to remove this course from the Fall Connection because in the previous year, students did not have these types of grades.
- There were 2 courses with no enrollment. Citty will notify the appropriate deans of the zero enrollments.
- Citty will review the evaluations from the Fall Connection courses, to assess student experience.
- The Fall online orientation helps to prepare IA students to take online courses. It was also noted that UF Online orientation program contains additional help that can be accessed for a \$30 fee. It is free for international students.

3. Deans' List for IA Students in Summer Session – Jeff Citty

Citty explained that during Preview, IA students were concerned about the opportunity to be on the deans' list over the summer semesters. Therefore, Citty asked the Council if it would be possible for IA students to be on the deans' list over the summer, which is currently only available for fall and spring semesters. The Council felt it was reasonable, but it was up to the colleges' discretion to make it available for all students over the summer. The associate deans in the colleges are to develop the guidelines for their particular college.

4. Other IA Topics

- There are 611 students currently enrolled in IA for Spring 2014.
- As of Friday, IA had 347 new students. These were students admitted last February.
- Launch into IA was on January 4 and turned out very well.
- The application for admission to UF has changed. Student who select the IA option have to write a separate essay describing why they want to be in the cohort. The application is now very transparent using pop-up boxes to ensure the students know what they were doing. At the end of the application, students must also acknowledge that they are interested in being an IA student.

5. Time to Degree Guidelines – effect on six year graduation rate

In 2009-2010, this group developed the time to degree guidelines. Mair is exploring how the guidelines affected the way colleges advise students with regards to changes in majors and their options if they are not making adequate progress.

Discussion:

- CLAS adheres to the guidelines. Advisers present students with a set of options to pursue their education somewhere else if they will not graduate in four years. It is in the advisers' culture to refuse students from other colleges and to say no to minors if students will not be able to complete a degree in four years.
- Mair said UF wants to catch the students who are told to leave after 4 or 5 years that would graduate if they stayed 1 more year. He believes we are not giving them the opportunity now because we want them to graduate in 4 years.
- Lindner wanted to know if colleges have a program that effectively coaches the student out of the major. Can UF have a transitional advising system with a database of the students being advised out of a major and that tries to put the student into a more suitable major?
- In PHHP, the advisers look at what courses the student has completed, what majors might best match the student's performance and discuss the options within that context.
- Fine Arts tries to make students leave the office feeling that somebody has paid attention to them, that they are not just being told to leave the college, but helping them go someplace. The adviser, who has known them for a semester or two, says let's take a look where you have done well. Let's look at options where the strengths that you have will be a good fit for you.
- Of the students who do not graduate in six years, a small percentage eventually receives a UF degree. It is believed that these students' GPA are in the 2.0 - 2.5 range.
- Shaw indicated that the retention committee is almost ready to share what they learned from the data and their recommendations. According to Shaw, we have students with high GPAs leaving UF. Medical withdrawals are the number one reason we are losing students in the first to second years. The withdrawals are for psychological reasons. It is not GPA or holds as we initially thought. We can increase retention by reaching out to these students and creating a success plan.
- Hanson feels we need follow-up conversations. If students are leaving for psychological reasons, then we need a different strategy than how we approach their academics.
- CLAS advisers are convinced if the degree is not done in eight semesters, then a student cannot do it. According to Mair, these are guidelines. It is up to the colleges on how strict they want to be with the guidelines. Mair encouraged the colleges not to push students out if they see hope that a student would graduate in six years.
- Zeglen feels colleges can talk about it with students in a more positive way. Colleges can focus on incentives that would make it attractive to students to graduate sooner such as the football lottery. An example is if students are in their eighth semester and applies for graduation, then the students are guaranteed tickets.
- Journalism has a general media studies track in the telecommunications major. The degree is for students who look for a flexible and customizable course of study. This major has been successful for those students who have not figured that out what they want to do in journalism. This degree preserves their opportunities for post-graduate studies or law school.
- Business has a general studies degree. Although the critical tracking criteria and the business core requirements are exactly the same as finance or marketing, because it says general studies, the students think it makes them less marketable.
- Schaefer summarized that the goal is if we have students who are not going to graduate in 4 years, but could graduate in 5 or 6 years, and could be successful in our programs or we can find them a program in which they could be successful, then we should be doing that.

- Mair asked if the advising community would benefit from some additional tools or resources to better handle students who are in transition or faces transitional challenges either being advised out of a major and trying to find a new major. Wehle felt the advisers would benefit by additional resources and feels we need more consistency or more understanding about the colleges. We need transparency from colleges on their policies for students more likely to be successful.
- Mair asked the Council if bullets 3 and 4 on page 2 of the Time to Degree Guidelines should be changed from 10 semesters to 12 semesters. The Council felt that the number of semesters should be handled on a case-by-case basis. If the student might be successful, then allow the additional semesters. If the guidelines were changed, then students may interpret it to mean they can stay longer. We need to change the culture so advisers can identify these types of students.

6. Other Items

- Shaw shared that there were 4 deaths over the holidays.
- Shaw indicated that mandatory health insurance starts this summer. She will bring more details to a later Council meeting.
- Due to time, agenda items Transfer Admissions and Critical Tracking GPA – Predictor of Success or Enrollment Management will be discussed at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.