

Undergraduate Advising Council
Thursday, May 16, 2013
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Norman Hall Terrace

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm

Brian Brasington from the Reitz Union addressed the UAC regarding student use and preferences for the Kaplin and Princeton Review testing preparation services. The lease in the Union is set to expire for Kaplin. Brian was soliciting feedback from the advisors regarding the prevailing student opinion of the quality of services. Specifically, he wanted to know if advisors are asked by students about a preference to a particular company. The responses varied across the academic units. After some discussion, there was really no definitive consensus reached regarding quality of services. It was suggested that Brian pose this question to the honors students for their point of view.

Minutes from the March meeting were approved and moved for posting to the UAC site.

Communications Committee – No updates at this time.

Professional Development Committee – Maureen Cox announced that she will set up a meeting of the committee to meet during Summer A. The date of the next UF Advising Conference has been set for 2/14/2014 in Emerson Hall. She welcomes any advisors to assist in the organization and commencement of this professional program.

Advising Certificate Committee – Deb Mayhew discussed the continued development of the new UF Three Level Academic Advisor Certification Program, a detailed handout was given to the members. Level 1 is described as an introduction and proficiency in the basic tools of the trade needed for every advisor. Typically this involved familiarity with the student records system, understanding of FERPA, ability to read SASS audits, remove holds and register students. Level 2 introduces advisors to continued intermediate professional develop. This can involve the completion of CRC workshops, training regarding troubled students, and coaching for success. Level 3 involves the academic and professional contribution of advisors to this developing field. This can involve activities such as conducting research, writing articles for publication, and presenting research at professional conferences. Level 3 Advisors are also encouraged to take on more leadership roles. Deb announced that she intends to hold additional meetings this summer on the continued development of this certification.

Tallahassee Advisor Drive In Conference – Robin Rossie reported that the legislative panel included important information regarding proposed changes to Bright Futures as well as other hot button topics for education in the State of Florida.

Retention of Tracked Out Students – The issue of UF’s 6-year retention rate was discussed at the CAD meeting. One way in which the university could improve this rate is through the greater retention of students that fall in between tracking requirement and are between a 2.0 – 2.8 GPA. In order to meet this goal, colleges may have to consider allowing some flexibility with the 8 semester plan. Robert Kwong from Liberal Arts described their student petition process for additional semesters. Related to this is the idea of a general studies type major to help viable students who have tracked out. Dr. Mair has asked individual colleges to create majors within their units that meet some of the outcomes of a general studies type degree rather than create an independent general studies degree.

Summer Waiver Petition – Students who wish for a change in their summer requirement will have to complete a University Petition. Colleges no longer have the ability to change this requirement. All changes must go through the University Petitions Committee. Students will also be required to obtain an Interviewing Officers Statement as a part of the petition packet. Roxanne Barnett updated the committee with some recent changes. Transfer students that have earned 60 credit hours or more will be waived of the summer requirement. This new policy will be effective for the Fall 2011 catalog year.

HUM 2305 – Robin Rossie asked the council for feedback regarding this course. There was some concern that the content and expectations of the course varied more than expected from instructor to instructor. This was reflected in a larger than expected variance in the final grading. Some advisors also voiced some concerns raised to them from students regarding quality of this course.

Concurrent Registration – Robin Rossie asked the council if there is a problem with concurrent registration. Overall the committee felt it was not a problem. Additionally, some units have to resort to concurrent registration due to the lack of available seats in critical courses.

Online Withdraw – Effective Summer A 2013, students can and have to use an online process when withdrawing from all courses for a current semester. This process does not require advisor approval although the website directs student to seek advisement prior to withdrawing. Some advisors were concerned about the abruptness of implementation of this new process. Many advisors were not aware of this change.

Vicki Clifford Position – Robin Rossie announced the opening of the position currently held by Vicki Clifford. Advisors were encouraged to refer qualified candidates to this vital position.