

UAA Faculty Senate: Student Academic Success Committee

Minutes: January 26, 2007

In Attendance: Sarah Kirk (FS), Chair; Trish Jenkins (FS), Joan O'Leary, Tom Skore, Kamal Narang, Connie Fuess, Linda Morgan, Kathleen Voge

Guests : Lynn Koshiyama, Tom Fitzgerald

Absent: Trish Grega, Catherine d'Albertis (FS)

TOPIC 1: New Members

Linda Morgan, Director of the Advising & Testing Center attended the meeting and was asked to become an ex officio member (non-voting). Linda agreed and a vote was taken. All members voting yea with one abstention. It was noted that Barbara Brown (Kodiak) was asked to join SAS but cannot due to a time conflict on Fridays. Also noted that a new Faculty Senate member has joined SAS (Catherine d'Albertis), but she was not present.

TOPIC 2: Quick Facts and the Faculty Advising Certificate

The first topic of discussion was an update by Linda Morgan on the Quick Facts guide and UAA's Advising Certificate. Linda stated that thanks to help from several on the committee (Trish, Trish, Connie, and others) the guide was now at the publishers.

The Certificate of Excellence in Advising has various modules planned and scheduled. CAFÉ and Linda are waiting for backing from the SAS Committee before proceeding. While not responsible for running the sessions, SAS will lend support, review and make recommendations, and suggest topics.

The first session, Module I, is scheduled for March 2, 2007 at 1:00 PM (pushed up from 1:30 PM to avoid conflict with Faculty Senate). This session will be approximately 1.5 hours in duration, and attendance will be mandatory for those seeking certification. While there will be only one 1st session, the other modules will have at least two sessions, one of which will always be on Friday, and can be taken by faculty in any order (as of this meeting actual dates have not been set).

Neither Module I or Quick Facts contain "process" information. Instead both seek to make sure that 1) information is made available to faculty, and 2) insure that faculty are more knowledgeable in how to best deliver that information to students. A suggestion was made to include Quick Facts aids within the various module segments.

It was also suggested that we examine the way academic advising is delivered to new students in various departments. This was deemed "critical" advising for that level of student, and that these students should be assigned to specific advisors, the best that the department had to offer.

SAS took a vote (which was unanimous) to support and promote the Professional Development Series for Faculty Academic Advising. Kathleen Voge reminded the committee that it was SAS' responsibility to continue to review progress coming out of the work and recommendations put forward by the Faculty Senate ad hoc Attrition Report Committee.

SAS determined that it would sponsor an actual certificate, and that the certificate should be counted toward promotion and tenure. In the hopes of enlisting the Provost's support it was determined that **Sarah Kirk would invite Provost Driscoll to the next SAS Committee meeting**. Hopefully the signature on the certificate would come from the Provost's office lending it weight, though the Dean's would determine how it would be honored.

TOPIC 3: Defining "Under-prepared"

Statewide is focused on "underprepared students." They have target assessment, placement, and enhanced advising for these students; thus, UAA needs to be clear about our definitions.

Discussion followed about the distinction between developmental students and under prepared students. Developmental student levels are defined by test scores in English and math; in other words, placement tests determine college readiness. Intangibles were also mentioned, such as poor (or no) study skills. "Under prepared" is a sub-category of "at risk." (LAP stands for lack of academic progress.) Since there are 2 ways of showing, a student might find themselves in both categories, testing low, and having a lack of progress.

It was noted that there are now enough sections this Spring Semester of English 111, for there are actually a few openings in a number of sections. This may be the first time in UAA's history that this has occurred! Apparently UAA has achieved a balance in this offering (congrats to the Dept of English!)

TOPIC 4: Recommendations to help under-prepared students

Discussion followed about the recommendations brought forth by the SAS sub-committee on how to help under prepared students:

- A) Mandatory advising for 1st year and 0 level students.
- B) Include 1st year advising and academic goals.
- C) Advise at least once a semester.

The committee also discussed numbers put forth by Gary Rice's office involving Preparatory Students, as well as history and psychology students (the pink sheet). It was noted that 70% who test low in reading don't take the preparatory classes; however, from looking at the numbers, it doesn't necessarily mean they will not, or cannot, pass their GERs. More discussion about these stats at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 4:15 PM.

Next SAS meeting scheduled for Friday, February 23, 2007, at 2:30 PM in GHH 105.