

**Student Academic Success Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2005**

Persons in attendance:

Gail Johnston, Sarah Kirk, Debbie Narang, Trish Jenkins, Connie Fuess, Joan O’Leary, Kathleen Voge, and Tom Skore

Guest:

Lora Volden – Coordinator of New Student Orientation

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Meeting called to order at 2:30 p.m.

- Committee list will be updated.
- A brief discussion regarding the procedures to follow for adding new committee members ensued.

Lora Volden – New Student Orientation

- Vara Allen-Jones has requested a formal orientation process for all new students.
- Lora Volden was asked to address this committee to bring us up to speed on the current orientation process.
- Lora provided the committee with folders containing various orientation documentation.
- Mandatory orientation fees are currently being assessed in both Juneau and Fairbanks.
- Lora has no full-time staff, only part-time students, yet the number of orientation attendees has risen from 281 to 427 between 2002 and 2005.
- It costs \$91 to orient one student (full-day orientation).
- Lora expressed the need to have faculty involved in the new student orientation process. Several SAS members concurred and stated that faculty should be able to receive credit for their service in orientation activities, particularly since these activities would primarily occur during the off-contract months.
- The committee will work on developing a specific “title” for this type of service. Also needed is a job description, as well as some type of “faculty orientation” session to be held before contracts end in order to ensure that faculty members are aware of their responsibilities and the details of the orientation process. Several committee members indicated that participation by faculty may be increased if each dean would request faculty volunteers. Whether this type of service could /

should be included on a faculty member's workload agreement was also discussed.

- D. Narang volunteered to create a rough draft of the job description prior to our next meeting scheduled for November 18.
- A discussion on what constitutes sufficient service followed.
- The question was asked as how new committees actually are formed. This topic was tabled.

Old Business

Sarah briefed the committee on the “plus/minus” grading discussion that occurred during the October Faculty Senate meeting. This topic is being passed on to the academic boards. Some departments can use plus / minus as a benefit...however, it was stated the benefit appears to be mostly for the student. No one in attendance knew why UAF discontinued its use of plus / minus grading capability.

Sarah also discussed the “Attrition Goal” for our SAS committee. There will be no revival of the previous Ad hoc Attrition Committee. Our committee's responsibilities now include attrition matters. We will need to review the new SAS by-laws to see if attrition was added. The committee will complete another review of the final report from the Attrition Committee. The committee will continue this discussion at the next meeting.

New Business

Several committee members attended a recent CAFE session regarding Advising Resources for Faculty. At the CAFÉ session, Mary Howard discussed the current use of an Audit grade at UAA. Howard indicated that the Audit grade was subject to some misuse by students in order to avoid a failing or undesirable course grade rather than withdrawing from the course. It was suggested that we consider and investigate the use of a UA grade (Unsuccessful Audit) or SA (Successful Audit). The committee agreed that we should ask Mary Howard for a quick summary of the current abuses of the Audit grade and the impact to faculty and student processes.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.