

UPAC Meeting Notes March 14, 2007

Announcement

Thank you to the Office of Summer Session and Winter Session for today's refreshments.

Debbie Harris, Office of Summer Session and Winter Session

Registration for summer session began March 7. It is down 400 enrollments from this time last year.

Sylvia Mioduski, Director of University College - Reorganization of University College

University College has been on campus since 1988, but it goes back at least 40 years in various embodiments. The latest reorganization stems from the desire to see more students graduate, declare a major more quickly, and be in good academic standing. This goes for students at both end of the continuum, including students who received good preparation for college and those who did not.

They looked at: 1. the fact that many of their students have a notion that they will be here (UA) for a little while but they are not going to stay. They do not look beyond University College; and 2. the academic preparation of students, especially in the areas of math and composition preparation.

They also look at the difficulty students have in transitioning from high school to college, whether an honor student or a student who struggles academically.

University College will be divided into four areas: (overseen by Lynne Tronsdal)

1. Academic Exploration and Learning (for freshman) – in the ILC. Sylvia Mioduski, Director.
2. Directed Studies, which will center on areas students appear to be most focused on (pre-law, pre-health, pre-pharmacy) - in Old Main. Leticia Soto-Delgadillo, Director.
3. C.A.T.S. Academics – will eventually have a new director
4. Retention Services – Testing Office, Tutoring program (MSTR) Glenda Wilkes, Director.

Student interest has declined dramatically. They don't have the ability to transfer the skills that they learn in workshops and counseling to use in the classroom. A better job needs to be done. A course will be created that will be 2 or 3 units to assist with this.

The official change will take place on July 1, 2007, but some things will be piloted so it will take some time to implement everything.

A major exploration course will be offered this summer online, both Summer I and II.

They have always worked closely with Career Services and will continue to do that.

March 6th Deadline: University College will continue to see students, but will not do official postings of change of majors to the college until the end of spring semester. They need a break.

Questions that were raised:

Ques: Do students need to switch to University College to use these resources.

Answer: Hopefully not. The resources might develop through tutoring, but Sylvia hopes these resources will be accessible. Hopefully something will evolve.

Ques: Is there a way for advisors to check on whether or not students are going to University College as advised?

Answer: Students need to be responsible, but on the other hand it is beneficial for advisors to know (some students are borderline, and it can make a difference if students are showing effort). Perhaps they can sign in, etc. It is something that needs to be examined further.

Ques: Are there going to be advisors from ILC available to work with continuing non-freshmen, undecided students?

Answer: Yes, eventually over the course of a year. Some advisors will move from ILC to the Directed Studies program in Old Main.

Syliva asked that if advisors have questions or concerns, they either call or e-mail her: 621-9363 or miodusks@email.arizona.edu.

Tina Schuster, Math Placement & MRT Coordinator – Restructuring of Math Placement System

****Tina will send documents to the UPAC listserv that explain in detail what the changes are. Please refer to those for a complete overview.**

Some highlights:

- Tina is hoping to meet with every college to answer questions.
- The changes are primarily for Fall 2007 freshman (the changes should be implemented before June 1, hopefully by May 15.)
- Transfer and continuing students can modify their schedules after June 1, 2007.
- Pima Community College's math placement test will be offered on Day 2 of orientation. Same day results will be given. In addition, they will try to get students registered into Pima math classes on Day 2.

Celeste Pardee, Curriculum Associate - DARS Update

- First DARS Information Exchange meeting was held to a full house in mid-March. The suggestions that were made at the meeting were added to the list of SAPR enhancements. The next meeting is tentatively planned for late April – after the priority advising weeks are over.
- A link to the current DARS Status Report has been added to the DARS Exceptions Web site.
- The training sessions for the CS exception (the sixth type of exception) are underway at the EMSG training lab, which is located at Speedway and Cherry. If you are interested in increasing your access, please check with your college coordinator for approval, then sign up for a half hour workshop this month.
- Items that are being tested:
 - 3rd majors/minors to pull from SIS to DARS, then it will be added to the program in the top box.
 - DARS SAPRs for former students (as long as they are in 1997 catalog or later – students who are from 1993 to 1996, put them in the 1997 catalog).
 - Honors units – total earned and in progress will be listed in the top box.
 - Institution type/exam code to be added to top box.
- DARS Curriculum Staff is considering establishing 2 ad hoc advising groups this summer. They will seek assistance from UAAC informing each group to look at two issues:
 - To examine whether DARS could or should accommodate degree components from different catalogs (e.g. Gen Ed from 1997 Catalog, major from 2006 Catalog, minor from 2007 Catalog). If advisors believe that this DARS option is feasible and desirable, a policy proposal would be submitted to the Undergraduate Council next fall.
 - To examine whether DARS can be used to help track NCAA regulations for student athletes; other universities have begun to use it for this purpose, and it would be a good idea to talk to them about how well it is working for them.
- Update on curriculum transfer courses – Real estate courses will no longer be transferable. There is no longer a real estate degree option. This is effective summer 2007. Students should not take these courses starting this summer, but they are still acceptable if they are being taken during this current spring 2007 semester.