

## **UPAC Meeting Notes May 14, 2008**

### **UPDATES: Academic Advising Program Review (AAPR) and Advisor Compensation– Roxie Catts**

The AAPR was based on several of the 36 recommendations of the Academic Advising Task Force final report. Periodically, the University Academic Advising Council (UAAC) reviews the 36 recommendations and asks two questions about each recommendation. 1.) Is the recommendation still relevant? 2.) If yes, what is the status of implementation? Last summer the UAAC recommended to the Office of the Provost that an AAPR be conducted to begin addressing several of the recommendations dealing with assessment and accountability.

The three components of the AAPR consisted of college and program self-assessments, a student survey conducted by ASUA, and an external review conducted by the NACADA Consultancy Bureau. The external review was conducted April 23-25, and involved the team meeting with each college as well as the ARC. That team consisted of Dr. Charlie Nutt from NACADA, Dr. Nancy King from Kennesaw State University, and Dr. Eric White from Pennsylvania State University.

A report will be issued to the Office of the Provost sometime within the next month. Given there have been significant changes within the Office of the Provost since the AAPR began, it is uncertain at this time the manner in which the results will be disseminated to the broad community. The team met with the incoming and outgoing Provosts and Vice Presidents of Instruction. If anyone is interested in reading the ARC self-assessment report, please contact Roxie at 626-7988.

On a different matter, Roxie is working with Human Resources (HR) and the Vice President of Instruction on academic advisor compensation. Thus far, HR has collected campus-wide data within the two classifications of Academic Advisor and Academic Advisor, Sr. which show that the majority of advisors in these classifications have been in their position for less than two years, keeping in mind that in some cases, there have been promotions or acceptance of different positions on campus which would result in the data showing more slightly more 'new' advisors than there are in reality. In addition, the data show that the majority of advisors in these two classifications are at compensation levels significantly below the midpoint of the salary range.

Roxie indicated that this topic has the attention of top administration, including President Shelton. Earlier this spring semester an all-funds budget request for augmenting advisor salary was submitted. Roxie noted that unfortunately at about the same time the proposal was submitted, the state financial situation grew more difficult. The question of advisor compensation is a question of when, not if.

### **Financial Aid Information on the TEACH Grant – Cindy Quick**

This grant was established by the TEACH program. Beginning July 1, 2008, it is available to UA students who plan to teach (identified on FAFSA's). It awards \$4,000 per year with an aggregate limit of \$16,000. Students must agree to teach a minimum of four years at a Title V school. If they do not complete the agreement, the grant becomes a loan.

Students must have a form signed off on by their advisors.

#### Question:

If the student does not complete the paperwork, will the money disperse anyway?

-No, the award won't be made until all the paperwork is turned in.

### **The New Start Summer Program and its Collaborative Efforts with Advisors – Stefanie Basij**

The dates for New Start are June 7 through July 18. 250 students have been contracted. 150 of those students will live in the residence halls.

New Start is a summer bridge program for incoming freshmen. Students are grouped together by major. The aim is to acclimate them to the U of A. Peer advisors will take them to the colleges for visits.

There will be a meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup> so that academic advisors can let peer advisors know what they should and should not be telling New Start students.

#### Questions:

Could we get a breakdown of their majors?

-It is possible, but sometimes students don't know what they are going to major in.

What is done for Undecided students?

-University College has put on various programs to address the past and all students are invited to other college events.

### **General Education Pilot Program for Honors College Students – Laura Berry, Roxie Catts, Celeste Pardee**

A PowerPoint was shown to illustrate the specifics. The PowerPoint is available on the ARC website under 'Spotlight and News.'

All incoming freshmen Honors students have this option. They can pursue all of it or parts of it. It is a one year pilot program. It is possible that the option will be available for all UA students in the future, but first the success of the pilot for Honors students must be assessed.

### **Other information:**

- UWGEC and the Vice President for Instruction are aware that there may be a shift in the demand from Tier I to Tier II seats.
- It is difficult to predict how many students will take Tier II courses this fall.
- The anticipation is that the real need for Tier II courses will be in spring 2009.
- It will not matter if students who begin in this cohort drop from Honors status. Students who begin in the pilot cohort will remain in it.
- The Honors College will be presenting the pilot program to freshmen at a brown bag lunch from 12 – 1 on Day One of Orientation (prior to the College meetings).

### **What can advisors do for the implementation?**

- Apply exam and transfer credit (from AP, IB, community colleges, etc.) to Tier I requirements first.
- Work with your UAAC rep who will have the most up-to-date information, especially during orientation. Provide feedback to UAAC rep.
- Stay tuned to the UPAC listserv for announcements and updates
- Enter feedback into VBulletin or post comments to the UPAC listserv.

### Questions:

- Is this only for freshman Honors students?

-Yes

- How will the pilot be assessed?

-In two ways: institutional assessment data collection asking questions like “how successfully did we provide courses, etc.” and surveying the students at the end of the academic year.

## **DARS Updates – Mike Alcorn and Celeste Pardee**

SAPRs will display the Honors Gen Ed pilot to be offered at UA in fall 2008.

Process: New incoming freshmen in the Honors College are the test group. Honors College will create a list of Gen Ed option participants. DARS will receive the list and set a condition code for participants. The Gen Ed pilot will give the student the option of using the same Tier I and Tier II course structure that is currently offered, to complete the Honors option, or to mix them up.

There are four study areas in the Gen Ed Pilot:

- Traditions and Cultures/Humanities Study Area (requires one course from each of the three sub-requirements)
- Individuals and Societies Study Area (requires one course from each of the three sub-requirements)
- Natural Sciences Study Area (requires one course from each of the three sub-requirements)

- Arts (requires three units)

Other Information:

The “CR” exception will be phased out on May 15, 2008. Any advisor that doesn’t have access to the “CS” exception will be given access.

There are a few exceptions where a “CR” will still be needed.

Question:

If there is already a “CR” exception and we want to clone it, can we?

-Yes

## **Update on Spanish Language for Heritage Learners Program – Sara Beaudrie**

Students often end up in the wrong Spanish course.

There are two types:

- Heritage – for students who have been exposed to Spanish while growing up, the classes are tailored to their needs and they learn their own type of Spanish.
- Foreign – Students learn concepts such as grammar, etc.

These courses are not similar; they encompass different concepts. Sara would like help identifying these students.

For instance, to determine eligibility for 103, a question such as “Have you had any contact with Spanish growing up?” might be asked. If yes, that student is a Heritage learner.

203 is equal to 201 and 202 combined. 203 does not come after 202; the content is totally different.

Questions:

When a student takes a placement exam and is placed, but they are really a Heritage learner, are they eligible?

-Yes and there is a test to determine who the Heritage learners are in the placement exam.

Will you be available at Orientation?

-No, not physically but through e-mail.