

UPAC Meeting Notes

October 8, 2008

General Announcements:

Rebecca Mitchell – As a member of the University-Wide Gen Ed Committee, Rebecca reminded members about the pilot Honors Gen Ed track.

Julie Reed - There are a lot of Tier II courses that are Honors-only courses. Please point this out to your Honors students. Steering Honors students towards Honors courses/sections frees up more seats in courses for others. Julie assists Honors students to make sure they have enough Honors classes. She asks that students come in to see her for degree checks which she can sign off on. If they haven't seen her they won't be listed as graduating with honors in the commencement booklet.

Call for UPAC co-chair nominations:

Judy Roman and Rebecca Mitchell are ending their terms as UPC co-chairs in December. You can self-nominate or nominate another person. It is not that time consuming and it is very rewarding. Send an e-mail to the ARC with your nominations through October 24, 2008. Members are encouraged to speak with any of the UPAC Co-Chairs if they have questions.

ARC Updates – Roxie Catts:

Roxie reminded the group that Alan Beaudrie is the editor of the “Connected” newsletter, and it is her delay why the newsletter has not yet been published for October. It will be distributed shortly.

The academic advising symposium proposal submission deadline has been extended to October 20th. There will also be a poster session at the December 16th event. Consider submitting a proposal – especially if you haven't had much experience presenting. The audience will be a friendly one. The guidelines are on the ARC website.

The pilot policy of Intermediate Algebra (Math 122 from Pima and others) counting as elective credit is scheduled to expire in December. Members expressed frustration over a pilot policy ending mid-year and reminded everyone many advisors – especially in the non-science areas – were encouraged to counsel their students to wait on math until spring when availability would be better. Another member stated that peer institutions offer intermediate algebra and wondered why we don't offer it again (UA did at one time offer this course). Some of the outcomes intended for this pilot have not been realized (many financial aid packages still require full-time enrollment at the UA making the consortium agreement unusable, unsure if students are better

prepared for Math 110 and beyond after having completed Math 122). Roxie indicated she would again speak with VPI Juan Garcia.

[**Editors note: The Undergraduate Council has since extended the pilot through at least May 2009. See ARC Website: Policies & Policy & Procedure Updates at: http://advising.arizona.edu/ad_policy_policy.php]**

Language Proficiency Test Policies & Procedures - Marian Wiseley , Linguistics Department

They offer the foreign language exams. It was originally begun for Native American students. They test students in languages that are not taught on campus. For example, Swahili, Scotch, Gaelic, Vietnamese, etc. Students can only be tested once. It waives the language requirement but they do not get credit for it.

For testing in languages that are taught on campus, students go directly to those departments.

Questions:

What is the acronym on the SAPR?

-CRL

Is there credit available by exam for some languages?

-CLEP exams, and some departments might do this as well.

Do students pay a fee for being tested?

-No

Pre-Law Week & Law School Information Expo – Verlaine Walker

Events will include:

Monday, October 20: Pizza with a Professional – Law Careers

Tuesday, October 21: Mock Law School Class

Wednesday, October 22: Personal Statement Information Session

Thursday, October 23: Law School Admissions Panel, Law School Information Expo, Financing Law School

Oasis Program for Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence – Erin Good

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. Oasis is located in D301 of Campus Health. The services are confidential and free. There is no limit on the number of visits. Counseling is available to students, faculty and staff. They will also help people who have observed problems

others are having and don't know what to do about it. They can do presentations for groups that are tailored to fit individual needs.

Undergraduate Council (UGC) Proposals – George Gehrels, UGC Chair

UGC is considering several proposals designed to reduce course shopping and to more efficiently use available seats.

Grade Replacement Opportunity (GRO):

~3300 seats used for GRO each semester

~25% of GRO attempts result in the same or lower grade

Most graduate and professional schools recalculate GPA to include all graded courses thus ignoring GRO.

GRO yields only minor improvements in cumulative GPA for juniors and seniors: one grade improvement for a senior (120 units) raises GPA from 3.000 to 3.025.

Recommendations:

Allow GRO only for D and E grades (Not C)

Restrict GRO opportunities to first two years at UA

Create a what-if GRO calculator on WebReg

Questions:

Q: How will it work for disqualified students who have been here more than two years?

A: Students could file a general petition.

Q: Since this could result in a significant number of seats, why not do away with GRO entirely?

A: It might be the eventual goal, but it might not be realistic right now.

Q: Are the lower level math and science courses the one that are generally GRO'd?

A: No important patterns like that have emerged, however, there are certain courses that tend to be repeated.

Q: Who is going to track the two year timeline?

A: The Registrar's Office feels they can do it manually

Q: What about a course that is only offered once a year?

A: That would probably be petitionable

Q: Maybe we could set a credit limit instead, i.e. the first 36 credits taken at the UA.

A: The Registrar's Office feels that would be harder to keep track of

Course Repeats:

~3100 seats used for course repeats each semester

Dozens of current students have attempted courses in CSC, ECE, CHEM, ECON, MATH and SPAN 8 or more times...two have repeated courses 11 times!

Recommendations:

Allow only two attempts of each course

Additional repeats allowed if seats available on first day of classes

Question:

Q: Would W's count as one of the times a course is taken?

A: Yes, but departments would be able to override that if seats are available in the first week of classes.

Comment:

This will be difficult to implement because of a lack of technology.

Course Shopping:

37% of seats exchanged by drop/add each semester

Most drop/adds take place during first week

Recommendations:

Move W date earlier in semester

Keep WebReg open longer

Charge fee for each drop

Comments:

-Classes being dropped too late for other students to add and make use of them.

-More and more departments are requiring students to see them to add classes in the first week of school. Is there any way to tell departments they need to allow students to use WebReg during the first week?

-Professors have their own individual waitlists also.

-Don't move the W date to earlier in the semester. Students might not yet know how they are doing in the class.

-It's a placeholder for financial aid.

-There is a black market for class hoarders.

-UA needs to put course syllabi online so students can make more informed choices.

-Perhaps implement the policy that during priority registration students cannot sign up for more than 16 units. Afterwards they could add more.

-Charging fees for dropping classes would penalize newly admitted transfer students.

Change in Class Standing:

Students enrolled in ~15 units/semester have higher GPA and graduate sooner than students enrolled in ~12 units/semester (normalized for SAT/ACT scores, high school GPA, etc.)
If each student enrolled in one additional unit, UA would receive 14.4M in state funding
Differential tuition for professional programs would kick in at higher number of units.

Policy passed Faculty Senate May 2008; implemented summer 2009.

Change student classification system to 30-60-90 units campus-wide

***Increase of one unit/student would generate ~108 faculty lines and ~6000 seats/semester*

Oversubscribed Majors:

Just starting to work on this...Broader use of pre-major contracts to make sure students know requirements up front? These topics are complex and challenging. Dr. Gehrels indicated he values continued dialogue with the advising community.

Please send comments/suggestions to George Gehrels at ggehrels@email.arizona.edu