

UPAC Meeting Notes November 12, 2008

General Announcements:

Tina Schuster, Mathematics – There will be a Brown Bag lunch tomorrow to talk about the new online placement test. She wants feedback from the advising community so please try to attend the meeting.

-The new system is called ALEKS. It starts at a basic level and students cannot proceed to the pre-calculus topics until they work through to that level.

-They will need to test before orientation or they will not be eligible for UA Math or Science courses that require a Math Placement Code until after orientation (and after they have completed the placement test). The test will not be processed or administered at Orientation.

-They may no longer be using ACT and SAT scores for placement.

-Students who are very close to a level and did learn the material at some point can work through the learning modules and if they are very close to the cut-off they might not have to take the transitional math classes.

Q: Has this been piloted with our students?

A: All students enrolled in a UA math course that requires a placement code took the test within the first two weeks of this fall semester. Some comparisons have been made between this and their MRT scores. We will also compare these scores to final grades to help set the eligibility requirements for Math courses.

Veteran's Education and Transition Services (V.E.T.S.) – Dan Standage and Amanda Kraus

Amanda listed some of the trends related to veterans and higher education:

- There is now an influx of enrollment
- Vets tend to enroll at community colleges more often than universities
- At least 30% of returning vets are diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or Traumatic Brain Injury. This can add to their transition difficulty.
- Amputation is the most common physical disability
- There does not appear to be a veteran's student group on any college campuses yet

A UA Student Affairs survey showed that there are 500 student vets using the G.I. Bill. Pima Community College has about 1,200 student veterans. There is not a lot of community for them on our campus and they would appreciate a space on campus. This is now in existence and is housed at Old Main (room 208C).

University Teaching Center now has a program where vets can enroll in a cohort and learn success strategies.

The resource office where Dan Standage works provides a place for veterans to gain assistance in the transition from military life to a university campus where there are few people to support them. Advisors can really help vets by reaching out to them. It doesn't cost anything but a little time and it means a lot to the vets.

Question:

What is the course title for veteran courses through University Teaching Center?

-UNVR but no numbers have been assigned yet.

UPAC Co-Chair Nominees

Kathy Godwin, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology – She has been an advisor in the College of Science for almost two years. She is excited about the opportunity and feels it is important for advisors to communicate with each other and share best practices.

Amy Rogers, College of Agriculture – She has been an advisor in CALS for almost two years and has a student services background. Amy's approach is very student-centered. She feels there are changes that could be made to make the process for students more seamless in navigating the large university setting.

Aubrey Burklund, Physiology – She has been at the UA for over a year. She has seen some miscommunication on campus and wants to be a part of UPAC in order to continue the good lines of communication for which UPAC is known. She also knows PeopleSoft which might be helpful to others.

Debbie Marlow, University College – She has been on the UA campus for 22 years as a student, teaching assistant and adjunct faculty. She worked in the College of Engineering as an advisor and is now at University College. She feels UPAC needs to accelerate its visibility on and off campus because of the transformation.

We will have an election at the December UPAC meeting.

INROADS Internships - Myisha Brown

Myisha is a recruiter with INROADS which is a non-profit organization that assists mainly minority students by placing them in paid internships. They are supported through grants and company donations. Their mission is to develop and place talented minority youth in business and industry and prepare them for corporate and community leadership.

There are currently over 5,000 interns all over the U.S., Mexico and Canada

There are five students here at the UA

Students must maintain at least a 2.8 GPA

Majors can include liberal arts, social work, psychology, etc., but students must be planning to work in corporate America.

Students should apply during the fall semester. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors can apply, as well as high school seniors.

Q: What is the graduation rate?

A: For those Arizona students who stay in the program, it is 100%.

Q: If students are admitted to the program, do they need to reapply each year?

A: No

Q: Does the summer after their senior year count as a summer that they can work?

A: No

Their website is: <http://www.inroads.org/>