

SAC Minutes

10/24/07

Present: K. Thompson, M. Buckley, D. Girman, J. Swing, M. Olson, J. Mahdavi, K. Fisher

Absent: M. Lopez-Phillips, L. Strobel, R. Robison

1. Approval of the Agenda – agenda was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes: changes as follows

- McNair scholarship is for first generation AND low income students
- Athletics: NCAA (not NCA)
- ACE can't provide data on retention rates, but someone on campus (R. Bruce's office?)

Approved as amended

Reports:

Chair's Report: Cheating and plagiarism policy changes were approved. R. Robison presented student grievance procedures at Exec. Com. That policy will be heard as a first reading at the Senate on 10/25/07.

SAEM: How do we address eligibility for majors for native students or transfers, especially in impacted majors? Question: what about scales of eligibility for majors based on credit hours?

ACE/SAEM: Approximately 1000 students left last year without graduating. We are overenrolled by at least 300, which is a money issue as we don't get paid for them.

Tutorial center has grown. We need to gather data on students who have left without graduating.

ASI: Looking at WASC essays, are they reflective of ASI attitudes? What are the criteria, what was left out, what should WASC look at? Also looking at budget issues.

Athletics, Campus Climate, Scholarship: no reports

Fee Advisory: ropes course (funded at some amount last year, but not half as much as needed). Ryan (who made the proposal) presented. Discussion: low cost way of team building was original intent. Now wonder if there is a cheaper way? Windfall of money from additional students and a radio station that is returning money: set aside the requested money on contingencies (will it have to be moved? Incorporate it into a class so leaders could be paid to teach). Risky thing that could be good. Also, who is asking for this? Students don't seem to have heard of it.

Academic Advising: Sean Johnson talked about training materials, ease of use on transfer paperwork and PeopleSoft. Some work stations aren't powerful enough to run PeopleSoft.

BUSINESS

1. Charge from Senate to consider/address record-keeping of student violations of cheating and plagiarism policy: Mac says there is no way to mark a transcript unless the student is expelled. Even probation is marked on transcript/People Soft only while the probation is on. Can information be given legally about what student did to be

disqualified? SAEM does track cheating internally, so if student has a pattern of cheating the university can see that. They will call the student in if 2 complaints have been sent forward. *If the student gets an F in the course due to cheating, should they be permitted to replace the grade on the transcript?* We need to try to send an email reminding faculty of the process for filing paperwork for both formal and informal cheating in the context of the new academic honesty policy. What is legal and ethical?

2. Preparedness for students with mental health issues: Lisa Wyatt and Michael Pinkston:

There is a booklet “Assisting the Emotionally Distressed Student: A Faculty/Staff Guide”

- Bad news: more students with emotional distress are being seen. Theories: more students have low levels of frustration tolerance/poor coping skills. Some are not developmentally prepared to come to college yet (and yet are having to cope with living on their own). In the past, some of them wouldn't have come to college because there were no psychotropic medications. We don't really know all of the reasons for the higher incidences of emotional distress. People say 9/11 stressed people out, but counseling center directors saw this trend prior to 9/11 (in 1999, 2000). We don't really know why there are more cases now.
- College counseling centers don't have much empirical data.
- Good news: Systems are being implemented to help with data collection to look at trends.
- Virginia Tech has forced college campuses to develop new policies. When are parents notified (questions about FERPA). US Senate approved an amendment to ask/allow universities to share more information about students with potential for harming others/themselves.
- Counseling Center is developing a campus wide mental health plan.
Interdisciplinary committee (includes counselors, administrators, police, health center, faculty etc.): faculty member with concerns could come to committee for assistance and to make a plan for intervention. We also need to maintain confidentiality/civil rights.
 - Predicting future violence is not a strength of psychologists, but they can help in cases of imminent distress. Looking at outside forensic assessment if an initial assessment internally indicates bigger problems.
 - Helpful to increase resources. 1 counselor to 1500 students is ideal ratio; SSU 1:4400 (CSU range is 1 to 1273-2976). SSU has good interns, but they aren't part of the ratio.
 - With more staff, could help students over a longer period of time rather than send them elsewhere.
 - When students come with significant distress, the health center and counseling center will help, but it is a major drain on time/energy/resources.
 - Students not in crisis are also seen- as long as they can identify a problem that they want to work on. Some of these are just a session or two.
 - They like to go to classes to give presentations about available services and could do this more often if there were more resources.

- Ideas about SAC and ASI putting together a resolution that more counselors are necessary.
 - Tie into retention issue
- Kaitlin asked about whether ASI could help finance a bio-feedback system (which Lisa mentioned)
- Clarifications to make this stronger for Senate:
 - Just under 70 hours/week of counseling time, including 9 hours/week drop in.
 - A set # hours are set aside for interns. They must be supervised by someone licensed (and the licensed person is also one of the counselors).
 - Not ethical to have more interns than staff.
 - Senior staff needs to see difficult/crisis cases.
 - New staff person will allow the counseling center to get more involved in prevention.
 - Talking to faculty who are worried about students.
 - Doing workshops with faculty.
 - Side effect is that doing prevention causes more people to come in, so more resources would be required.
 - Depression screening (78 screened this year, more than in all years combined... because email went to all students).
 - Is anyone being turned away who needs services? Lisa says yes. We aren't the appropriate level of care for some students; they will be referred to community resources, but there's no case management to make sure the student follows through with referral. With more staff, there would be more opportunity to develop connections/network with other services.
 - The center has a good model, but it is limited.
- Suggestion: have Counseling Center go around on day of Convocation to distribute materials at school meetings.
 - May also be a good topic for January faculty retreat.
 - Go to orientation or early in semester to certain courses.

Future Items

Discussion of possible resolution to Senate regarding the need for more staff in the Counseling Center

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Mahdavi.