

Student Affairs Committee

February 28, 2008

Minutes

Present: Bielat, Dove, Feathers, Sacco, Samson, Slater, Width

Absent with notice: Head, Martin, Simon, Strauss

The committee discussed Grading Policy. We began by discussing the data submitted by Robert Berman and reviewed the material originally provided by Linda Falkiewicz. Items discussed included:

There appears to be little impact of the elimination of the grade of X, but we need additional data on that. The number of X grades seems to have shifted to the various W grades.

There may be some benefit to having students receive a grade of F instead of X because it may help us identify students who need additional support. It is not clear whether the withdrawal grades will also be used to identify students who need assistance; so this may not actually benefit students.

Grades of F do seem to affect student retention, but we also need additional information to identify other influencing factors such as part/full time, resident/non-resident, funding, county, and level.

A concern was raised for both the X grade and the grade of F that we need to look beyond the following semester as holds do not really take effect until the second semester after the grade (fall grade would result in a hold on spring term registration). Additionally, even if required to see an advisor because of a grade of F, students can re-enroll before that visit; thus we need to look beyond the following semester to determine the impact.

We need to collect data on a regular basis to see the true impact.

The issue of support programs was also discussed including completion of early warnings by faculty, assistance for students to help them understand how to be successful in college, and counselors/mentors for students.

The report on the Electronic SET was considered and some revisions were made to that document. It was suggested that we add a statement about providing students access to some parts of the SET results, specifically those that relate to the course but not those that relate to the instructor.

The degree audit was discussed as a possible help to students, but a concern was raised about how changes in degrees would be implemented. Is an individual plan entered for each student, or are students in a particular program checked against a pre-determined plan of work? If the latter, what happens if the degree requirements change? Would students who are advanced in their program now have to follow the new requirements? Also of concern is that students might not see an advisor but just follow their plan. This could cause them to take courses out of sequence or even to take courses that are inappropriate. Perhaps there should be mandatory meetings with an advisor.

Bill Slater reported that he had talked with Cheryl Kollin and that students no longer receive holds for failure to declare a major.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15