Advisors' Meeting Aug. 28, 2008

Present: Erica Robbins, Alisha Kimble, Angie Salinas, Jesus Jimenez, Cynthia Donahue, Kathy Briggs, Linda Zubke, Jan Zarate, Becky Sweeley, Craig Harmelin, Elizabeth Boretz, visitor: Laurie Herbrand

I. Director of International Programs

Rebecca Sweeley introduced herself, and the advisors introduced themselves to her. Craig reported that he has been very busy already this fall with students who are interested in going abroad.

II. Changes

Several recent changes were discussed: Counseling and Psychological Services, and all staff in that area, are now down in the Health Center. The location where they used to be, now houses Fuji Collins, Kevin Browne, Brad Neily, Greg Spurgeon. Charles Nies is now Associate Vice Chancellor, and he is in the location where Disability Services used to be. Advisors had not known about these changes previously.

III. Catalog Rights

There was much ambiguity on this campus regarding this issue up to now. Angie was involved in a situation this week where a student was invoking her catalog rights, as she wishes to adhere to the 2005 catalog, which was lighter on prerequisites than the current catalog is, for a key course in her major. All agree that we as advisors do not want to approve a student entering a course when we know that they lack the proper level of preparation. However, catalog rights are inescapable, and we need to allow students to enact these when they want to. The student in question has been given a warning that it is not in her best interest to take the course (a repeat for her) without the currently listed prerequisites. Nonetheless, the student plans to go ahead with the course.

It was also noted that when we find ourselves in these situations, we should remember to document all that we can, and print out the e-mail "warning" about the potential consequences for taking a course without the proper preparation, to keep in the student's advising file.

All can anticipate more incidents of this sort. However, year by year, the catalog content will be more refined, and fewer and fewer students will be invoking catalog rights from our early days, when many policies and prerequisites were less thoroughly defined than they are now.

IV. Preview Day and Family Weekend

One advisor raised the issue that these are on the same weekend. Elizabeth noted that this was planned intentionally, and there are some good reasons to try this. However,

advisors are thinking that it may be difficult to recruit enough faculty to participate in both Saturday events on the same day.

V. Advising Opening Week

All are reporting that this is the smoothest first week we have ever had. Advisors are busy, but not as in past years, and overall there have been no serious incidents related to meeting students' needs. FTE count was still somewhat low compared to headcount as of Tuesday morning, but advisors report that much of their work this week involved rounding out schedules that were still incomplete, to bring students up to higher numbers of credits.

One reason why this week has gone well is that advisors worked systematically after orientation to advise and register the non-attendees during the middle of August. This was done over the phone and in person, and that went well for everyone. The phone-calling campaign to bring in the missing students often yielded a non-response or a student reporting that they would not be attending, but it also captured the SIRs who still needed to register, and they are now here in class.

VI. Questions from Laurie Herbrand

1. Can a student have multiple emphases in a major? The answer is no, and this is an issue that has not come up, so far. Students think of their major with its emphasis as their whole major, and they have not sought additional emphases.
2. How many majors can a student have? Can there be a triple major? We seem to have approved a maximum of a double major. This is because an 11-semester limit was imposed on students seeking a double major, at the time that double majors were approved.
3. How many minors can a student have? As many as they want.

Also: at this time no ENG majors are anticipated. There have been requests by non-ENG majors for a CSE minor, and that will not be a prospect, due to the extensive amount of foundational courses needed in that field. Perhaps in the future there can be a non-ENG "communications and marketing technology" minor, housed in the School of MGMT or somewhere like that, that emphasizes applied computer programming. Berkeley, for example, has a major like this in its College of Letters and Science, in addition to the CSE major housed in the College of ENG there.

VII. Revised Dismissal Policy (Laurie)

Advisors need to share their views on this with their deans.

VIII. Banner Use and Misc. (Laurie)

- Laurie inquired if advisors would like access to SFAREGS, to clear maximum hours for students, rather than have to call in to get students released to expand hours. Some advisors would utilize this function.
- Inactive Students – students who are not enrolled this semester, or who have left us indefinitely, cannot view their grades. Laurie intends to change this, so that they can access a self-service function for this purpose.