

AAC Agenda: January 28th, 2021

In attendance: Soemer Simmons, Brent Kane, Jazmyn Thomas, Sarah Roth, Amelia Noel-Elkins, Shanna McDaniels, Clint Smith, Lana Summers, Janet Tulley, Amy Hurd, Crystal Nourie, Kel Kennedy, Wendi Whitman

- I. Chair's remarks
 - a. Chair position 2021
 - i. Unanimous vote for Jazmyn Thomas, the new AAC chair for 2021.

- II. Secretary/Treasurer Report
 - a. Approval of minutes
 - i. Approved by Clint, second by Jazmyn, minutes unanimously approved.
 - b. Budget Requests FY21/22
 - i. Subcommittee chairs have been emailed, should have requests in February for AAC to discuss.

- III. Old Business
 - a. Marginalized student populations – Update working group
 - i. Need to update group members- looking for people who are interested in providing additional support for this population. Let Brent know if you are interested. Jazmyn and Amelia are going to work on this.
 - b. Advisor caseload concerns – Brent
 - i. A continual concern. How can we advocate for additional advising support on campus?

- IV. New Business
 - a. AAC Award Ceremony Plans – Lana
 - i. Will AAC incorporate the AAC Award Ceremony into Spring Advisor Day? Last year, there was a reception for all award recipients following Spring Advisor Day. This year, plaques won't be here until mid-to-late February. A ceremony will not be a part of Spring Advisor Day. AAC has already announced the winners, so PDT does not need to say anything at Spring Advisor Day as winners will be recognized at a later time. Amy Hurd has some social media posts ready to go. When is the next time all advisors will be together? End of the semester wrap up event. Due to the current environment and hopes for the ability to gather in person in the fall, should we wait until fall? Is that too late? It's possible to host an event sooner over Zoom. Food could not be provided, but more guests/family members could attend. Jazmyn and Brent will follow up with Soemer and Amy Hurd.
 - b. Advisor brainstorm session on re-orienting students once back on campus – Amelia
This year's freshmen and new transfer students missed out on the traditional first year experience, especially those who didn't live on campus. In the fall, how can we introduce these students to parts of campus they are not familiar

with? Question of what Welcome Week will look like and if they can include previously new students. What is Student Affairs planning that could fulfill some of these issues/concerns that this group of students won't know where to go or all the resources available to them? Could this be connected to Festival ISU? The event may or may not happen- too early to know. Could Festival ISU be spread out into school buildings and each club get 1 room? Don't know yet what the on campus Housing requirement is going to look like for these students.

- i. Possible virtual scavenger hunt with pizza as a final prize. Physically walk to offices like Milner, Student Counseling, Health Services, Financial Aid, Career Services, Center for Performing Arts, and advisement office- scan a QR code, then get a voucher for pizza at the Bone as a reward. Might need to make it a coordinated effort with these offices so the traffic doesn't disrupt their work- smaller groups important. Students may or may not be able to use Campus Maps app to get around. Another suggestion that "on campus newbies" do a "nooks & crannies" exploration and students can find their own favorite work/study/hang out space.
- ii. How can individual colleges/schools/departments reach out to these students and make them feel welcome? Departments like FCS and others have student ambassadors that could help with something like this. What will the state's requirements look like- will we be able to serve food to large groups? Meeting people in person that they've only met over Zoom, go to their department's building they haven't yet entered.
- iii. Should there be virtual communication like Comevo for these students? Share information leading up to when they get back? Let students know the physical areas they should know, important units/resources. Can we partner students up virtually as a way for them to connect with one another? Question of the day on MyISU portal with visible live results. "What's your favorite study spot on campus? Where's your favorite restaurant?" Share information about what other students are feeling.
- iv. How can we get returning students to participate? Need to include transfer students who may be seniors. What kind of incentive appeals to older students? We want to help these students make a new transition to being an on-campus Redbird. Pros and cons to virtual and in person options, could be a mix of the two. Amelia is going to reach out to John Davenport and Michele Whited for more information on what Student Affairs is planning.

c. Preview 2021 Update – AAC Advisors

- i. Administrators are recalculating plans- meetings set up for this week and next week. Meeting with stakeholders individually and in groups. Hybrid and virtual are on the table. Moved back Preview reservation date opening 2 weeks to gain additional time (now April 1, was March 15). Checking in with state partners to

see what other institutions are doing and getting mixed reviews. Administrators are watching vaccine roll-out. Who are the advisors on these committees that are being consulted?

- ii. Department/school advisors have expressed concerns regarding health/safety of first year advisors, how decisions are being made, and communication is being disseminated. Will department/school session be virtual regardless of the model?
- iii. Because it's COVID related, steering committee will make the final decision on the model. Preview Planning Committee starts work in February. Student Affairs- administrators are talking to them again, at one time Student Affairs was hoping to do face to face events at Preview.
- iv. Amy Hurd said there are 150-170 students and their guests in a typical Preview. How is that too many people in June and July if we then have 20,000 students come to campus in August? Amy said they will continue to have discussions, but she would be very surprised if this goes entirely online. Right now, ISU student rates significantly lower than the community.
- v. How it's different in June than later - the University plans to test all the students when they come for the fall semester.
- vi. Department/school advisors voiced concerns regarding shared governance and frustration regarding communication line. Concern about what this summer will look like, and that this is affecting one population of staff. Understanding that the University is giving the opportunity to Student Affairs that they can be involved face-to-face, not a directive. Shared governance not always felt by academic advisors, don't currently have a union. All this population has are AAC and AP Council.
- vii. No answers can be provided at this time regarding health and safety concerns or the availability of vaccines.
- viii. College of Arts and Sciences advisors voiced additional concerns regarding a hybrid model. Will department/school advisors have to step in if first year advisors test positive?
- ix. University College advisors frustrated regarding safety and not having the opportunity to express their opinions regarding how Preview will look. Time wasn't provided in a large group meeting, or people didn't feel comfortable speaking up. Advisors needed time to process and then communicated with their elected AAC representative. First year advisors were unclear whether Preview plans were finalized or not- thought it was presented as this is the plan, rather than this is the current idea, what do you think? Wendi would prefer advisors reach out directly to her with their specific concerns.
- x. Advisor burnout a key topic at Spring Advisor Day. People are fearful. Advisors have taken on a lot during COVID and expectations and workloads have only increased.

- xi. Comparison to Admissions Ambassadors, who according to the Director of Admissions, feel comfortable giving mainly outdoor tours. Comparison made to food service workers. It was noted this is a quick interaction, and current students are expected to adhere to safety protocols, and are tested. Advisor presentations at Preview would be an hour and 15 minutes in an enclosed room and with individual conversations and consultations with students and their families from around the state/country.
- xii. Amy Hurd said she wants to hear suggestions. She knows there's a lot of misinformation. Concerned about an anonymous survey because there may be continued misinformation, won't get the data we need. Later, it was asked exactly what information is being repeated because to this point it has seemed there are many questions and concerns, not rumors or complaints.
- xiii. Big difference between June 1 and mid-August in terms of vaccine distribution. Big difference between returning to our offices and interacting with different groups of people each day, all from various parts of the state/country. Question of can advisors partner with Admissions now on innovative/creative programs and outreach to prospective students this spring, rather than waiting until June/July.
- xiv. There was no recording, and no minutes circulated of any Preview related advisor meeting thus far. It was recommended something be sent to advisors that outlines the facts as we know them know, and information University administrators are currently working to gather, along with the opportunity to provide feedback.
- xv. Elected representatives shared worries that academic advisement is being thrown into this without being provided answers to the information we're seeking. How can we feel comfortable in such an uncertain work environment?
- xvi. At this time, Preview feels they have enough large rooms to space out a regular size Preview group so that smaller groups won't affect the calendar. Typically, we don't get the entire freshmen class to come to Preview, and now more will likely do an after Preview experience. Smaller freshman class will lead to smaller groups. Exploring possible alternate spaces, desktop dividers, PPE, presentation style format without one-on-one conversations.
- xvii. The idea of students coming by themselves and parents participating remotely has been considered. Currently a max of 2 guests, with encouragement that students bring as few guests as possible.
- xviii. The larger group presentations that administrators give will all be delivered via Comevo, not face-to-face. Can the UC/Honors advisor presentation be over Comevo?
- xix. Many UC advisors like working in pairs. How will they feel presenting alone? Can information be streamlined? Too much information all at one time; information dump doesn't get students excited to be a Redbird.

- xx. Peer Advisors and Preview Guides have been approached and there are enough who say they are willing to be face-to-face.
- xxi. Admissions says parents and students are asking what our plans are going to be for Preview. We don't know what these students and families want- some may want hybrid, some may not.
- xxii. February 15- deadline for a decision. May have to plan for multiple contingencies. Always had an individual, after Preview option and would continue to have that- likely would be a larger group this year. Do we need to have an equivalent option for students and families who don't want to come to campus? Equity of access an issue.
- xxiii. There is a feeling of defensiveness among leadership when concerns are brought up- this contributes to why some people feel uncomfortable speaking up in meetings or approaching their supervisor with concerns.
- xxiv. Which University unit is pushing for a hybrid model, and do they understand what advisors are really doing in these sessions?
- xxv. What kind of image does it present if advisors are visibly scared and nervous face-to-face?
- xxvi. Can we plan for online, and then move to hybrid if most people are vaccinated in July and there isn't a COVID spike?

V. Campus Solutions/Registration

- a. Registration dates Summer/Fall – Brent
 - i. Summer registration dates have been posted in the Advising Wiki. Crystal is going to ask Sally to send out an email to the advisor listserv.
 - ii. Fall registration dates- likely extend registration to end May 7. Definitely want it open the weekend after the April 30 Transfer Day. March 22 for priority students, Tuesday- grad students, Wednesday- seniors. Freshmen- April 12. This matches the previous registration calendars.
 - iii. In the future, should sophomores and freshmen be combined for summer registration? Do we have data on freshmen's ability to take a summer class? Likely depends on the specific class they're trying to enroll in. UC and Honors said many freshmen take first summer classes at a community college. Anecdotally, major based classes more likely to be taken at ISU.
 - iv. Possibly want to consider the time frames for summer and fall moving forward. Would want to get Athletics' advisors input on summer/fall registration dates because their summer/fall plans are intertwined. Would need a great deal of discussion among various units before we could change the time frames.
 - v. New withdrawal form for course and University withdrawals- a helpful change. Will copy advisors on communication after withdrawal has been processed. Advisors said it's very helpful to be notified when a student drops a class so we can reach out to students immediately.

- VI. Committee Updates- No updated were provided due to limited time.
 - a. Assessment
 - b. Technology
 - c. Teacher Education
 - d. PDT
 - e. Mentoring & Connections
 - f. AAC Awards Selection

- VII. Student Representative Report
 - a. Kel has class at 11am this semester, so Emily is going to take over as student representative.

- VIII. Other Business?

- IX. Next meeting – February 11th

Submitted by:

Sarah Roth
February 1, 2021