

## AAC Minutes: September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Present: Soemer Simmons, Theresa Sanchez, Shanna McDaniels, Brent Kane, Ryan Gray, Amelia Noel-Elkins, Kelly Kennedy, Lindsey Prior, Jess Ray, Crystal Nourie, Jazmyn Thomas, Wendi Whitman, Derrek Drenckpohl

- I. Approval of Minutes from August 20<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Lindsey Prior motioned, Ryan Gray seconded, minutes unanimously approved.
- II. Chair's remarks
  - a. Welcome Derrek Drenckpohl, filling in on AAC now since Gina Turton has started her maternity leave and Shanna McDaniels will be soon. Warm welcome to our new Student Representative, Kelly Kennedy, as well.
- III. Secretary/Treasurer Report
  - a. Nothing to report.
- IV. Old Business
  - a. Department advisors' access to imaging – Brent
    - i. Megan Taylor is following up on access.
  - b. "Best Practices" Handout for Advising during COVID – Amelia
    - i. Nothing to report.
  - c. AAC Constitution Change Request – "Constitution" to "Procedure" or "Charge"
    - i. Recommended to use the term "Bylaw" instead.
- V. New Business
  - a. Degree Audit Improvements – Amelia
    - i. For about the past year, several academic advisors and staff from the Registrar's Office have been working with a Peoplesoft/Oracle consultant to make improvements to the current degree audit system in CS. Many recognized that there was a lack of confidence in the degree audit system and this project was intended to fix some of the commonly identified issues. That project is now complete and improvements have been put into production.
    - ii. Update on ADV from Theresa Sanchez - 40 or so items fixed: Graduation requirements section will collapse now, Incompletes were counting as completed and don't any longer, P/NP has been switched back to not count as major/minor or gen ed (from spring 2020), transfer credit still IP will default students to NR after two semesters – this will prompt students who really took it to submit final transcript or if they didn't finish the course, will prompt them to take it. Theresa will run an NR report once a semester (and give advisors a heads up) for two semesters ago so students get two full terms to remedy this. Units for each course listed in "courses available" were added so that students don't have to cross-reference with the PDF report, cumulative GPA for students seeking a second Bachelor's and New Start students were not correct because it was accounting for every course they have taken at ISU – this has been fixed,

repeatable courses were counting incorrectly (e.g. CHE research, Civic Engagement minor courses) and that has been fixed, department advisors being able to accept their own electives instead of submitting petitions for them to count is in the pilot stage (being tested only for now) – this should cut down petitions by 25%. Steve (consultant) gave best practices to implement behind the scenes for new majors.

- iii. Things that couldn't be fixed: We don't have a way to waive any GPA exceptions (if your major requires a certain GPA to graduate), transfer credit not counting as senior college at previous institution but counting as senior hours here at ISU – they have to catch those manually but a partial fix should work 50% of time, what order courses pull into IAI or Gen Ed can't be fixed – this can affect natural sciences/BS SMT and 70/90 rule for transfer credit but there's no way to put a limit on that, IP grade replacing F and artificially impacting GPA, consultant couldn't tell Theresa how to better build Art majors- no way to make some of these things cleaner.
  - iv. Overall, majors are looking good. Gen Ed is looking very clean. IAI History will always work the way it's supposed to (with History being in two different groups) it's just not the way we like it.
  - v. Soon we know that advisors will begin a very busy time in planning with students. During this time, we ask that advisors use the degree audit functionality very heavily. We want to determine whether the improvements have done enough to restore advisors' confidence in the CS degree audit. Specific questions can be directed to Theresa in the Registrar's Office. We ask that advisors give feedback to the members of AAC by the end of the semester so that this can be discussed at meeting towards the end of the calendar year.
- b. Delayed start spring course options – Jazmyn
- i. Having that delayed start would help with full semester courses students are feeling overwhelmed in. Thinking of Thrive and other IDS courses.
  - ii. This is an effort that is already gaining ground swell support, as evidenced by HSC's Medical Terminology second 8-week course and SOC planning similar spring courses.
  - iii. We have some wiggle room – calendars are an issue. Student Accounts has asked to not build anymore calendars into the system. Calendars are insanely manual. If we do this, we have to be very careful from resources and unintended consequence standpoints. Such as Veteran Students and International Students – those 3 credits may not meet certain requirements for these students.
  - iv. One of the things we're looking at in Senate is deadline for withdrawals will be extended – no academic penalties, but financial issues. The ability for a student to withdraw from university or a class extended. Doesn't help with probation students because we're kind of kicking the can down the road, but it's one area we're trying to give some flexibility.

- v. Some instructors are being more understanding about students joining class late this semester due to the asynchronous model, but mostly we're putting these kind of requests off on other advisors. Can we as advisors, put together a list of classes you can now join in the second or third week. How are we helping student in this moment? Maybe an unofficial list through the Advising Wiki of courses that you can catch up in – reach out in January to dept advisors for this.
  - vi. Crystal will check with Student Accounts and Financial Aid on potential issues. Another issue is the tenth day census – this report goes to IPEDS and Board of Higher Ed so we like it to be as accurate as possible.
- c. Spring registration dates advisor feedback - Shanna
- i. Which difficulties will the one-week delay avoid?
  - ii. I think this is a smart consideration. My department is currently trying to pull together the spring schedule, but there are so many moving parts to consider. The later we start registration, the more chances we have to update things in the system before students are registered.
  - iii. I'm glad to hear AAC is considering this option! If we can delay the start of registration, I think that would be in everyone's best interest - students and advisors. However, I do wonder if delaying registration by one week will give us the time we need to have a finalized spring schedule in place. We're trying to work on our spring schedule right now, but we don't have a lot of guidance yet on how we should be considering modalities, space, etc. I suspect departments will need to have a quick turn-around time on spring schedule changes, so the sooner we can establish guidelines and/or make decisions about the spring semester the better! I definitely advocate for having a "final" schedule in the system and ready to go before we open registration (to the best extent possible)!
  - iv. Student Accounts would prefer us to move, Grad School has no problem, Housing said they don't think there would be a problem, Health Services said the delay would help with immunizations. Honors prefers it. Crystal prefers it. All stakeholders agree, so we're moving forward with this.
- d. ALEKS math placement concerns – Shanna
- i. Feedback from other advisors, faculty, and staff on observations of suspected dishonesty on the ALEKS math placement that I've noticed myself. Examples of huge jumps in scores from attempts that are only a few days apart or ACT Math score not matching up with second ALEKS attempt. Of course, this has ripple effects on students, staff and faculty.
  - ii. Effects on students: In the wrong math placement. They either attempt to drop too late to get into a more appropriate math course and then scramble to fill large gap in schedule with something else, drop with WX, or fail the course and face those financial impacts.
  - iii. Effects on faculty: Struggling to teach students who truly don't have the requisite math skills, some believe this increases DFW rates. Thinking

specifically for the Calc sequence. If a Calc I section is filled with a large portion of students who don't have prerequisite knowledge then the instructor goes back to fill in the knowledge which takes time out of the Calc I content and they can't finish the Calc I content. So the students are ill-prepared for Calc II and the cycle continues.

- iv. Effects on staff: Field complaints from faculty, scrambling along with student to adjust schedule, can put first year advisors and academic departments at odds over true appropriate math placement
  - v. COMPASS was eliminated so that's why we moved to ALEKS. ALEKS currently offers the lowest level of proctoring.
  - vi. Proctoring through ProctorTrack will be rolled out for current students/faculty in their classes sometime this semester, so students will become pretty familiar with it pretty quickly. ProctorTrack will eventually be used for ALEKS proctoring. Hope to use it for summer 2021 Preview.
  - e. Increased anxiety/stress among students – Brent
    - i. Time Management is a big issue – they are used to more structured time
    - ii. Could their parents be stressing them out? The Parents and Families group posts have been very negative as of late.
    - iii. Many PDT Fall Mini Session ideas revolve around this issue (see Committee Updates)
    - iv. We need to think about advisors working remotely as well and how they are coping – we're looking at the long haul.
    - v. Lisa Lawless' recent email about Academic Coaching referral this fall is helpful
    - vi. Loneliness is definitely a factor. First year students are sharing that they are feeling lonely while being on campus, because they don't feel safe enough to get out. Some have even said they "hate" living on campus because they feel alone and they didn't anticipate that.
    - vii. Looping advisors in on RCT reports would help. New case manager in DOS is Joseph Thomas ([jathom2@ilstu.edu](mailto:jathom2@ilstu.edu)) and he is lovely to work with.
- VI. Campus Solutions/Registration
- a. Nothing to report.
- VII. Committee Updates
- a. Assessment
    - i. Not meeting until AAC tells us to.
  - b. Technology
    - i. Meeting next week
  - c. Teacher Education
    - i. Haven't planned any specific PD sessions or update sessions because everything is so flexible and fluid at this point. Sending updates via email instead.
  - d. PDT
    - i. Fall Advisor Day coming up on September 18<sup>th</sup>

- ii. Discussing the following ideas for fall mini sessions at our meeting next week:  
Motivational Interviewing, Supporting Students in Crisis through Zoom, Student Loneliness & Belonging, FERPA Considerations with Zoom
  - e. Mentoring & Connections
    - i. Coffee break scheduled for tomorrow morning, discuss drop-in virtual advising.
  - f. AAC Awards Selection
    - i. Should we go ahead and remove Formstack and send application documents directly to Soemer instead of recreating the wheel? She is the middleperson with this anyway as she downloads it from Formstack. We'll use same process as previous year nomination process.
- VIII. Student Representative Report
  - a. Sounds like advisors are well aware of how students are feeling this semester.
- IX. Other Business?
  - a. Student Dashboard –
    - i. Amelia will post document outlining Student Success Dashboard training to AAC Teams Chat and ask for feedback by early next week.
- X. Next meeting – Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Brent Kane motioned to adjourn, Shanna McDaniels seconded, all approved.

Submitted by:  
Shanna McDaniels  
9/11/20