

Professional Development Session Minutes
February 21, 2007
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
STV 401

Teri Farr welcomed advisors and guests to the first professional development session of the spring semester. She also introduced the members of the Academic Advisor Advisory Council Professional Development subcommittee.

Mr. Jim Jacobs, University Registrar's Office, addressed medical withdrawals. He is responsible for considering exceptions to the university deadline policy regarding withdrawals. Students seeking a medical withdrawal must provide him with a signed statement addressing the reason/s for the request and why the student could not meet published withdrawal deadlines. They must also provide any medical documentation or other documentation verifying circumstances for the withdrawal. Optional evidence includes a written statement by an advisor and/or faculty member attesting to the stated circumstances. In assessing the students' requests, Jacobs will also take into consideration academic progress up to the last known attendance date. After the decision is made, he will email the advisor and faculty if they provided supporting evidence for the case.

Ms. Judy Curtis, Assistant Registrar and Veteran's Services Certifying Official, described the various federal and state grants available to veterans: 1) Chapter 30 provides benefits for those students with prior active duty service; 2) Chapter 1606 provides benefits for National Guard service; 3) Chapter 1607 provides benefits for veterans who were reactivated for active duty service; 4) Chapter ? provides benefits for dependents of veterans who were killed in action or wounded; and 5) Chapter 31 provides vocational/rehabilitation benefits. The state of Illinois supports the Illinois Veteran's Grant (IVG) and the Illinois National Guard Grant (INGG). There is also a MIA/POW scholarship available to qualified students. Curtis said that academic advisors can serve as liaisons between Veteran's Services and students. Advisors are asked to complete 100 Hour Letters and professional practice paperwork to verify remaining graduation requirements in case a student's file is audited by Veteran's Affairs.

Ms. Dina Vaughn and Mr. Danny Hayden, Academic Information Systems, provided an update on the mainframe system. A new operating system (ZOS) was successfully uploaded in December. This system provides enhanced security and interfacing for users. In the future, the AIS department may be able to make the mainframe web accessible. Also, in several weeks, the department is hoping that multiple session interfacing will be made available to the campus.

Mr. Jess Ray, Interim University Registrar, provided an update on the Course Articulation Initiative (CAS). Student and advisors may use this system by accessing www.transfer.org. A course to course articulation and program evaluation is available through this website. Ray is considering hosting another workshop for advisors on how to use the website. Due to several requests to drop December registration, Ray asked for feedback about registration. There were several comments, and Ray mentioned that he would ask for more feedback before deciding whether to continue or discontinue that registration phase.

Dr. Jonathon Rosenthal, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management, informed advisors about possible changes to the Supplemental Criteria Chart. He said the use of grade point averages has been problematic in determining admission of new and internal transfers. The Program Enrollment Management Committee (PEMC) is considering the following recommendations: use of the transfer grade point average to determine eligibility rather than waiting for an ISU grade point; grade point average requirements be removed from the catalog and placed into appropriate websites; and the chart should reflect the middle 50% of students admitted instead of a minimum grade point average. There was also discussion about irregular start times of classes and fall/summer/spring indicators in the catalog.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Woollen