NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

ADMISSIONS POLICIES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE
(APASC)

Minutes of Meeting #127 (Approved)
August 31, 2005

Present:  E. Mogren (LAS/HIST); J. Parker (EDUC/KNPE);  D. Cesarotti for J. Scarborough (EET/TECH); M. Pritchard (HHS/Council of Acad. Adv.); D. Wade (BUS/MGMT)

Ex Officio:  B. Burk (ADMISSIONS); S. Eaton (EDUC SERV & PROG); M. Gillis, (TRANS CENTER); D. Larson (ENROLLMENT SERVICES/REGISTRAR); E. Seaver (VICE PROVOST)

Guests:  S. Warber (REGISTRATION AND RECORDS); C. Douglass (ASSESSMENT SERVICES)

Absent:  R. Blecksmith (LAS/MATH); K. Hall (HHS/COMD); C. Rollman (VPA/ART)

OPENING:  The meeting was called to order by D. Wade, Chair.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by J. Parker, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Electronic Approval of Minutes for 4/27/05.

The minutes for meeting number 126 were approved via email.

B. Report from the Advising Deans

The Advising Deans have not begun their meeting schedule yet.

C. Report from the Executive Director of Enrollment Services

D. Larson reported that the conversion of the graduate and undergraduate catalogs from a print-based document to an electronic data base has been completed by the vendor. Once the Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator position has been filled, proofing of this version can begin. There were several audit issues related to linkages between courses and programs that are currently being addressed.
D. Academic Character of NIU Students

E. Seaver announced that he will bring profile information related to the Fall 2005 freshman and transfer classes to APASC after the official enrollment has been finalized.

E. Limited Admissions/Program Review

E. Seaver said that the process for reevaluating limited admission/retention requirements is included within departmental program reviews. The process will start earlier this year, and will be ready for consideration by APASC early in the spring term.

E. Seaver reported that he is also requesting that the colleges provide reinstatement reports for 2004-2005 ahead of last year’s schedule.

III. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Accept Annual Report

It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by D. Cesarotti, to accept the 2004-2005 APASC Annual Report. Motion passed.

B. Future items

E. Seaver stated that because of the college model used at NIU, there is a need for new catalog language that allows for administrative processes, such as reinstatements or withdrawal, to be handled by the Academic Advising Center for undecided students. The catalog refers to decisions related to these processes as being made by the college dean or dean’s designee. Therefore, catalog language is needed to include the Academic Advising Center as being authorized to perform these tasks. Last year, the concept of using APASC as the reinstatement committee for dismissals was also discussed.

C. Associate of Art in Teaching Degrees

E. Seaver reported that the State, in a joint effort by the ISBE, the ICCB, and the public university deans, has developed a number of two-year degrees for the purpose of recruiting more people into the teaching professions, particularly in areas where there are teacher shortages, such as math or science.
These programs will allow students to complete their general education requirements while also meeting some of the prerequisites education courses needed before entering into upper-division professional sequences and clinicals. They are designed to create a seamless transition into the major. The goal is to give the student options for transfer to their choice of senior institution.

There is no teaching credential attached to these programs. But there is specific content for meeting teacher certification requirements, such as portfolio creation and the basic skills test. Upper division courses are not a part of these programs.

Completion of the AAT does not guarantee entry into limited-admission programs at the senior institutions. In the secondary areas, it may be difficult to complete a bachelor’s program in four years even with the AAT.

The main issue is whether these degree programs are to be included in the Compact Agreement. Some had assumed that the AAT would be included automatically. But previous decisions regarding compact benefits apply only to the degree programs considered at the time, and not inclusive of other degree programs that may be added at a later time.

S. Warber distributed a chart comparing the different AAT general education components with the IAI General Education Core Curriculum. The AAT in Science in particular does not line up with the GECC.

E. Seaver suggested that the issue of compact benefits for the AAT degrees be taken up at the next meeting of APASC. He also recommended that each program be voted on individually, rather than as a package, because there is at least one more degree program to come forward.

He recommended that APASC request that representatives of the College of Education come to the next meeting to provide some background information about the AAT degree initiative and to go over a sample curriculum.

V. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by J. Parker, seconded by D. Wade to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Don Larson.