NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

ADMISSIONS POLICIES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE (APASC)

Minutes of Meeting #162
April 14, 2010

Approved

Present: A. Radasanu (LAS); J. Wolfskill (LAS/MATH); J. Parker (EDUC/KNPE); E. Klonoski (VPA); L. Guo (EET/TECH); L. Marcellus (Council of Adv. Deans); D. Wade (BUS/MGMT)

Ex Officio: B. Lagana (ADMISSIONS); S. Eaton (EDUC SERV & PROG); E. Seaver (VICE PROVOST); B. Hemphill (STUDENT AFFAIRS)

Absent: M. Gillis (TRANSFER CENTER); J. Parker (EDUC/KNPE); S. Arnett (HHS); B. Goldenberg (UCC)

Visitors: L. Allison (REGISTRATION AND RECORDS); S. Warber (REGISTRATION AND RECORDS); D. Rode (ORIENTATION & FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE)

OPENING: The meeting was called to order by E. Seaver.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Electronic Approval of Minutes (3/3/10)

B. Report from the Advising Deans

No report from the Advising Deans.

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Foundations of Excellence Presentation
   -Denise Rode, Director, Orientation and First-Year Experience, and Gip Seaver, Vice Provost (Co-Liaisons)

E. Seaver stated that commitment to first year students needs to be a part of new faculty orientations so that incoming faculty members are aware of the important role they have in regard to the first year students. He also stated that it has been recommended to present the “Foundations of Excellence” to all new employees at
orientation including Support Professional Staff and operating staff. Administrative staff need to understand the importance of the first year.

E. Seaver said that we need to get information up on our website so that prospective students and/or new faculty can see the kinds of programming NIU does around the first year.

E. Seaver indicated that NIU needs to continue to increase high-impact activities and sections of UNIV 101. He stated that there are eight themed learning communities that span most of the colleges for freshmen. Early intervention MAPworks is a program that goes throughout the student’s first year. With this program the student fills out a survey asking them to self assess themselves psychologically, socially, financially and academically. This demonstrates where the student might be at risk of leaving NIU and where they might need help. This program will be used with all incoming freshmen this fall.

D. Rode said that the goal would be to have every first year student engaged in at least one high impact activity if not more.

E. Seaver said that there was a goal to enhance the student advisory support. He indicated that building on the strengths we currently have with advising would make for a better experience for the student.

E. Seaver stated that NIU needs to have a reward system for the faculty and staff participation in the first year experience. There has been discussion that involvement in the first year student should be part of the tenure process. E. Seaver mentioned that he felt there would be more participation in this program if NIU can build it into a reward system.

E. Seaver indicated that by working with COMS 100, ENGL 103 and MATH 110 instructors we are trying to develop our early alert system that would provide information with the first three week of class. For those students that are not attending class or turning in assignments, this would allow some intervention on the student’s behalf. The Student Academic Success office is working with John Wolfskill, the English department and Communications to develop this system to be incorporated this fall.

D. Rode indicated that there is a transfer version of the “Foundations of Excellence”. At some point in the future, we may be able to put the focus on transfer students.

E. Seaver said that our interaction with the community colleges is something that the deans are going to invest their time in. Working closely with the community colleges in terms of the transition for the students and helping them complete their degree within a reasonable time frame of two to three years.

J. Wolfskill indicated that it would be helpful from an advisor’s perspective to be able to see what the student sees in their MyNIU account. He asked if there was any way that could be accomplished.
E. Seaver said this was something that could be presented to the implementation team.

B. Lagana commented that he liked the shared experiences because they can be made very specific to NIU.

E. Seaver stated that sometimes it is more beneficial for a transfer student to transfer after their freshman year rather than their sophomore year. He stated that NIU would have four year plans mapped out for most programs of study so that a transfer student could plan accordingly with the community college and be able to complete their degree in the four year time frame. Students and parents have the perception that a degree can be completed with two years at a community college and two years at NIU. This is not always the case even if the student is going full-time.

D. Rode stated she did a focus group with students that attained a GPA of 3.2 or higher. She stated that the students were positive about their classroom experiences and the attention they received from their faculty members. The students were grateful for the supplementary instruction in their courses and felt it was key to their high GPA. D. Rode said that we want the students to know the resources that are available to them and to use them.

J. Wolfskill asked if NIU can get information to students proactively regarding judicial issues. B. Hemphill indicated that there has been an internal and external review about being more proactive with the students and have more of an educational approach. He indicated that Judicial Affairs should move away from the more punitive approach and possibly even change their name.

E. Seaver indicated that mandatory advising for the first year student has been recommended.

E. Klonski asked if studies have been done to see how a student has performed their first semester. He indicated that maybe we could target the students that have had a bad experience in a class or two and have them register for UNIV 101 instead of forcing all new students into the course.

E. Seaver said that there are programs to indicate the students that may be at risk whether it be the high school they came from or their ACT scores. More and more institutions are forcing students to come and get the help they need.

D. Rode said they are looking at the commonalities in the recommendations that they have received. The steering committee of the “Foundations of Excellence” will work to develop and refine the recommendations so that they are ready to be incorporated this fall.

D. Rode said that one of the changes that she would like to see for first semester students is mid-term grades. She said that maybe the “Early Alert” will take care of this.
B. Catalog Change: University Honors

E. Seaver indicated that there were three changes to be viewed:

- The language for recognition of honors has been changed for lower and upper division honors.
- Realignment of the ACT score with the equivalent SAT score.
- University Honors Program is allowing department honor students to take their honors seminar within their major department.

E. Seaver said that this proposal would allow the upper division seminar to be completed within the student’s major. This will encourage departments to have honors programs as well. Students would prefer to do honors in their college and department.

It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by J. Wolfskill to approve the catalog change for University Honors. Motion carried.

C. Curricular Items referred from CUC

- COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, Curriculum Committee Meeting #12, 2/16/2010 –
  See attachment #2
  Certificate of Undergraduate Study - Finance

  D. Wade moved to approve for discussion. L. Marcellus seconded.

  D. Wade suggested new language regarding admission to the certificate program as follows: “Admission to the certificate program is competitive based on GPA and is consistent with the limited admission standards for the finance major and minor.”

  D. Wade said admission to the required courses FINA 330, 340 and 350 is tough. The majors have to take it and there is not enough room to admit non-majors.

  L. Marcellus said the classes are available first to the majors and minors and then to certificate students.

  D. Wade motioned, J. Wolfskill seconded to refer this back to the department to consider the inconsistencies that exist with their co-requisites for the courses in their certificate of undergraduate study. Motion carried.

- COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, Curriculum Committee Meeting #9, 2/16/10
  Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education
It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by J. Parker to approve the change in the College of Education. The Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education’s Emphasis in Athletic Training has been changed to a major. Motion carried

- COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, Curriculum Committee Meeting #13, 3/2/10
  Department of Accountancy

It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by L. Marcellus to approve the prerequisite grade of “C” or better in ACCY 360 for ACCY 467. Motion carried.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes submitted by Lisa Allison.