

Advisement and Registration Council Notes 10-17-12

Present Members: Michael Boroznokoff, Esther Martinez, Valeriya Avdeev, Victoria Wagner, Glen Sherman, Jyoti Champanerkar, Tina Leshner

Meeting called to order: 10:45 am

Michael reported that he spoke with Francisco Diaz regarding orientation, who is coordinating with Deans to make sure that Deans have more time to cancel courses with enough advance notice so transfer students who are registering in August will be less likely to be surprised by courses cancelled at last minute. Michael understands that going forward there will be a three week buffer between registration and the first day of class.

He also spoke with Deans about repeat course policy in light of Core Curriculum and students who had taken GE courses. When old GE courses are no longer offered, but they are not comparable to new course, students (e.g. readmits) may have to take new courses. Chairs Council is working on the issue of whether there are equivalencies in current UCC courses or not.

Approval of agenda with proviso that III becomes IV and IV becomes III.

Approval of minutes.

Esther said she had heard of the possibility of removal of Alternate PINS for seniors. Michael stated that this is not going to happen (if at all) until conclusions are reported by Blue Ribbon committee. Michael then described recent discussions he has been involved in concerning reviewing juniors' records in terms of their preparation and readiness for graduation.

Esther raised point that she feels the Advisement Council should be more direct with Faculty Senate about our deliberations and decisions. She distributed to the Council a drafted Resolution that she asked to have presented to the Faculty Senate (attached) but it was not put on the last Faculty Senate meeting agenda. Esther made the point that recent university decisions regarding advisement are not consistent with principles of shared governance, and that this Resolution requests that any future ideas about decisions regarding advisement be brought to the Council and Faculty Senate before decisions are made.

Michael moved that Resolution be passed. Esther seconded. Resolution was unanimously passed.

Esther presented the report that was recently made to the Board of Trustees. Glen gave the context of the report and shared how the general discussion about the future of advisement

on our campus went in that meeting. He identified how the creation of the Blue Ribbon panel reflects the intention that came out of that meeting to try to create a shared vision of where we as a community wish to move with regard to academic advisement. Esther raised the point that Policy 28 was intended to serve that purpose, but both Glen and Michael pointed out that the ideas in the policy were never actually implemented. Michael expressed the opinion that the system of compensation for advisement and the Alternate Pins (called RAN numbers earlier in WPU history) seem to have undermined the realization of the policy's intentions.

Discussion then followed up on Declaration of Minor issue. Both Michael and Glen shared that IT has expressed that because of other programming priorities, it has not been accomplished. However, we discussed the issue that Esther said Faculty Senate raised when it was brought up last year, that perhaps there should be more advisor input in the student's declaration process. Right now, Glen pointed out students can complete a paper declaration form without any departmental involvement or approval. Glen conveyed Joe Alaya's question about whether there are departmental prerequisites for some minors and if so, whether these should be built into any automated declaration of minor system. Other potential complications were discussed as well. Glen shared that Joe said he could start building the system during Spring 2013 if that is the wish. Tom and Esther identified that next step is to find out when next Chairs Council meeting is and bring this up to see what they want included in or excluded from the process (e.g., approval of minor, or other potential aspects of the process), so we would know what to request of Joe. Michael will see if he can obtain data on the frequencies of declaration of minor over the past five years (and completions of minors during this same time period) to see if there is an increase with the new Core Curriculum. The intent of gathering this data is that it could inform the discussion with the Chairs in terms of whether there is an increase and if so, whether increased checks and balances in the process of declaration of minors makes sense.

Agreed that Senate's charges to the Advisement and Registration Council will be taken up at next meeting, due to lack of time today for this discussion.

Michael announced that PINS are out and preregistration period is approaching.

Esther distributed copies of the September 2012 report of Drs. Weil, Martone and Sherman to the Board of Trustees' Educational Policy and Student Development Committee on advisement for discussion and/or questions at the next Council meeting.