

Minutes of the Stockton Advising Council

Friday, February 28, 2:45 p.m. in F 121

Members Present: Pamela Vaughan, Jo Lema, Emma Kluesner, Peter Hagen, Paula Dollarhide, Earl Benjamin, Ellis Benjamin, Ron Caplan, Marcia Fiedler, Esther Lawrence, Adam Miyashiro, Ellen Mutari, Cynthia McCloskey, Susan Cydis

- 1. Spring Registration and Preceptor Days.** Classes are posted on 3/21. Precepting Days: Tuesday, March 25 for Juniors/Seniors and Wednesday, April 2 for Freshmen and Sophomores. Blackboard advising sections are available now for students to schedule appointments electronically. This is the semester that preceptor evaluations are being done: if a student meets with his/her preceptor, the student will be able to get an earlier registration time. The bump-up times have doubled: each class is divided into two different bump-up times rather than just one. These times will be posted in the portal on the “home” tab. Adding more times actually is fairer to the students and creates less impact on the BANNER system. Remember that the results of the preceptor evaluations are available in the summer from your Assistant Dean.
- 2. Graduation.** Graduation checkout is in full swing. There always seems to be some confusion as to who can “walk” and who cannot in commencement. Students should be applying for graduation in the term they are finishing all credits for the degree. Preceptors can help by reinforcing that statement. There has been renewed pressure from administration to reinforce the rule already in place: in the student does not have 128 credits at the end of the term, they cannot walk in the ceremony. Students who have 128 and above, applied, and did not complete all requirements may appeal to walk at academic.appeals@stockton.edu For more information on commencement ceremony policy, access <https://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/page.cfm?siteID=209&pageID=35>
- 3. New Members for 2014-2015.** Those who are finishing their two-year term this semester will be rotating off, and selection of a new “junior” member. If you are rotating off, be thinking about an appropriate replacement. Paula will soon be reaching out to you to confer about who could benefit from the experience of being on the Council.
- 4. Common Reading.** The Council discussed the “Concept of Academic Advising” paper from NACADA. <http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Clearinghouse/View-Articles/Concept-of-Academic-Advising-a598.aspx>
The document was ratified by NACADA in 2006 to reflect a definition of advising that could cross institution missions. Members found interesting parts of the concept paper, including the idea that advisors are “mediators” and “facilitators” who effectively use their specialized knowledge and experience for student benefit. Another idea that resonated with the group is that the student must be an active participant.
This led to a discussion of “best practices.” Some ideas were: 1) meeting new students and reaching out to them in August; 2) email advisees early in the semester, not just before advising days; 3) using blogs and Blackboard to put up information for advisees, especially about grad school and other information; 4) a “9-1-1” for advising help.

5. **Center for Academic Advising (CAA) and Assessment:** Peter and Paula spoke about their participation in the NACADA Assessment Institute. Attendance at the institute helped clarify the direction which the CAA needs to go as far getting started with assessment. The members of the CAA staff are working on vision, mission and learning outcomes for the CAA at present.
6. **Vision, Mission and Goals work of the Council:** Peter had a chance to talk about the difference between assessment and evaluation. We do preceptor evaluations every year at Stockton, which is analogous to the IDEAs. Assessment of advising is more akin to the ELO process, which involves student learning outcomes. We are just starting to think about how to assess advising at Stockton, which will entail campus-wide involvement. It is not something that the Advising Council owns or controls. However, it is appropriate for the Council to endorse or subscribe to “best practices” or a “this I believe statement.” Ellen Mutari led a discussion about the pros and cons of involving the union at this early stage in this discussion of vision, mission and responsibilities of the precepting relationship. She also showed us where to find the 2008 Faculty Evaluation Policy on the Academic Affairs web site and how it speaks to precepting: **2.1.5 Precepting, including facilitation of students’ academic and career planning/decision making; conscientious attention to students’ progress toward graduation; and helping students to access resources to reinforce these efforts. Prompt and timely communication with students and preceptees, including stewardship of student records and the maintenance of grading and attendance records in a manner consistent with College policy and all relevant statutes.**

The various points in the in the 2.1.5 document are currently evaluated in the preceptor evaluation held every spring, which was negotiated and approved by the SFT.

Given that in the future, our work *may* want to be recognized in looking at improving evaluation process and beginning assessment processes, the Council agreed through consensus to email our set of vision, mission and roles to the SFT President. This could head off any future issues/discussion.

7. **Next meeting:** April 4, 2014 at 2:45 p.m. in F 121. Happy Spring Break to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Dollarhide, Chair