

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Vol. 55, Meeting No. 14
Tuesday, February 19, 2019
Chancellors Room, 311 Davies

Present: *Members:* Joel Friederich, Robert Hooper, Marquell Johnson, Hans Kishel, Bill Miller, David A. Miller, Vicki Samelson
Guests: Margaret Cassidy, Albert Colom, Billy Felz, Deb Jansen, Carmen Manning, Robin Miller, Jean Pratt, Alex Smith, Evan Weiher

Presiding: Chair Marquell Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from February 5, 2019

- Motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2019, as distributed. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously (6-0-0).

2. Proposal for Policy Change to UWEC Advising Requirement Prior to Registration

- Billy Felz and Albert Colom were in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Looking to provide support throughout student's entire time on campus, not just the first 1-2 years. Proposal follows national best practices. Currently CoB students, transfer students, and students with up to 60 credits all have different requirements; this would provide consistency. Already have resources and sound processes in place, will help at-risk and students of concern, advisors can provide referrals to help with academic goals, it will help to touch base with students once a semester to discuss short- and long-term goals and make them aware of opportunities on campus, will keep them on track academically and personally. Currently only freshmen, sophomores, and CoB majors are required to have a PAC for registration; the policy would require juniors and seniors to as well.

Discussion:

- How many students will this add to ARCC? Currently seeing approx. 2/3 of students who don't need a PAC, learning that the remaining 1/3 are the students who should be seen. Freshman who began in Fall 2016 + CoB have been utilizing ARCC since the beginning. When the new freshmen arrive this fall, will be close to advising 10,000 students with a 300 advisee:1 advisor (ARCC has the capacity)
- ARCC would release the PAC, faculty advisors would not be able to. Would all occur behind the scenes, students do not need to remember the code
- Why can't faculty advisors distribute PACs? Accountability, e.g., if a student suddenly realizes they're not going to graduate when they thought they could, who is responsible? ARCC keeps appointment notes. Willing to work with colleges, want students to meet with their faculty advisor, and will encourage them to do so
- Faculty advisors (CoB) rarely see students anymore. Unless there is something in place that promotes student-faculty interaction, it detracts from University
- Lead advisors, chairs, Weeks of Welcome, what can ARCC do? Understand the faculty advisor is a key piece, need to create partnerships
- PAC code was reason students met with faculty advisor, need to inform students of viable reasons to meet with them vs. just a transactional event; e.g., require an introductory meeting with faculty advisor in their freshman year, meeting with faculty advisor in sophomore year to discuss HIP options or service-learning, touch base in junior year to discuss grad school, meet in senior year to discuss overall plans and their experience

University Senate Academic Policies Committee Minutes continued

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

- How will potential consequences of holds on registration, especially relating to getting into classes, be handled, especially since this is a new requirement for some? Advising software allows for regular communication campaigns, multiple emails informing students of their registration time and when they should meet with an advisor are sent, additional emails are sent when students don't follow through, also are able to send texts. Advisors do not take vacation during the seven weeks, responding to emails within 1-2 days.
- Can't support requiring seniors to have to meet with an ARCC advisor. Faculty advisors have connections for jobs and internships and there has been a real decline in number of students meeting their faculty advisor. Would like a hybrid model for juniors and seniors who have declared majors, they could see their faculty advisor first for a release
- What about accountability? Understand wanting to help students, but there aren't records of faculty's meetings vs. ARCC's system where meetings are tracked, can look back to see what a student was told, student/advisor can be held accountable
- Faculty should have the ability to release PAC hold for those over 60 credits
- How do students feel? Mixed response. Those who are more active feel it's another hoop to jump through, they know their programs well and can navigate CampS; then there are those students who have missed requirements and are behind on graduation who feel that required advising is a good thing and makes sense, it will catch students not as involved and aren't as aware of requirements
- It isn't just recommended for scheduling questions, any and all obstacles can be discussed and will allow advisors to refer students to the right place to have things addressed, want them to feel connected and have all needs met
- Students will miss out research opportunities and internships by not meeting with faculty advisors.
- Who has access to ARCC's advising notes? Everyone has accesses to the SSC program, Appointment Summary flows back into CampS.
- Students should be able to start with a visit to one or the other if all advisors have access to software, faculty advisors can check things off too and either could release the hold if X number of things are completed. Is there the possibility of a hybrid model?
- Some departments don't want their advisors spending time on degree/course planning
- Accountability issue. Some faculty are too busy doing research or teaching or may not have time to put notes in, how do we make that piece work?
- Could student end or start with ARCC advisor for that final accountability and work closely with departments to be aware of their expectations?
- Look forward to working with students at the junior and senior levels, conversations aren't about course sequencing, talk about their profession, challenges, address their end goals
- Faculty aren't losing anything; juniors and seniors aren't currently required to meet with anyone
- Deans have discussed the recommendation and support it. There are already faculty workload capacity issues. Whatever requirement/policy we do needs to be collaborative in nature, departments need to have a voice. CoEHS has used group advising with students because it can't be done one-on-one and the relationship needs to be established. Could do some sort of advising experience for juniors and seniors with collaboration from the lead advisor. Except for the CoB, this is all new workload. CoEHS doesn't have the capacity, would choose smaller class sizes over faculty signing on off PACs.

University Senate Academic Policies Committee Minutes continued

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

- CSD is encountering more students entering with 60 credits. This also needs to be addressed. These students are coming back to designated faculty and overloading them with degree planning, this policy would help with this situation.
- 14 students came in at junior level this year (Billy)
- If faculty want the ability to do the release, should be required to complete the SSC appointment details. The technology has to allow this. Would allow faculty to decide on an individual basis whether they want to. Some faculty will, some won't. It'll be inconsistent. Program capacity issue vs desire.
- Small departments may want to. Department reviews consistently indicate that students miss the connection with a faculty advisor, need to bring faculty advisors back into scene
- Could add faculty advisors to the work flow of the appointment details; e.g., indicate the faculty advisor would like to meet with student
- With the proposed change in policy, would you be open to trying to address concerns that have been expressed as it relates to the role of faculty in the process? Looking to see what the system is capable of?
- ARCC has been upfront about asking departments what they can do differently, however, departments need to be specific about their requests.
- Is Student Senate going to vote on this? Would like to know what students think before proceeding. Could be supported if students are in favor.
- Students don't typically vote but have discussions, could provide a recommendation
- With the pending changes in degree plans, and the move toward greater flexibility, can we have a conversation about students having access to those degree plans earlier? Intent is to have them available as sample templates for students
- This agenda item was not voted on and will be brought back to a future meeting, student feedback will be obtained

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting