College of Arts and Sciences  
Council of Chairs  
Wednesday, December 9, 2015  
2:30 – 4:00 p.m., AS-122

Meeting Minutes


Not Present: L. Niu, M. Stessin, J. Yetto

Introductory Remarks: Dean Wulfert called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes of November 18, 2015, Meeting: A motion to approve the minutes was made by P. Magnus, seconded by N. Denton. The meeting minutes for November 18, 2015, were approved with two abstentions.

Announcements:

• Course Action Forms and Curricular Proposals are due no later than 2/26/16. Please submit program related proposals before the last day of classes in the fall semester (12/9/15). Bear in mind scheduling registration dates when specifying the effective semester for proposals. Please use updated Course Action Form and UPPC Campus Impact Statement and send proposals to Cindy Endres at cendres@albany.edu.
• From the Registrar: The due date for submission of all grade rosters is Tuesday, 12/22/15 at 11:59 p.m.
• Fall 2016 scheduling in Peoplesoft is to be completed by departments by 1/11/16. Teaching Templates are also due by 1/11/16.
• Journal Support Award application materials due to Department Chair by 2/5/16 for the spring round of competition. (Dept Chairs should submit ranked applications to Dean’s Office by 2/12/16.)  
  http://www.albany.edu/osp/assets/Journal_Support_Award_Application.pdf
• Conference Support Award application materials due to Department Chair by 2/5/16 for the spring round of competition. (Dept Chairs should submit ranked applications to Dean’s Office by 2/12/16.)  
  http://www.albany.edu/osp/assets/Conference_Award_Application.pdf

Old Business

Retention (John Delano, Associate Dean)

J. Delano reviewed data on the cumulative GPAs of 435 freshman attritors (at the time of their departure after only 1-2 semesters at UAlbany) and the type of institutions to which they transferred from UAlbany. J. Delano examined three groups of students divided among three
GPA ranges: 143 students with GPA =3.0-4.0; 126 students with GPA=2.0-3.0; and 166 students with GPA<2.0. For those three groups of GPA, 76%, 44%, and 13%, respectively, enrolled in other 4-year institutions. CUNY and the other three SUNY centers were the dominant institutions. For those three groups of GPA, 11%, 32%, and 39%, respectively, enrolled in two-year institutions. Published literature on transfer student behavior indicates that when students leave, most tend to go to an institution closer to home, but that tends to vary by GPA. Citations to some of the published literature dealing with transfer students were provided on the slides.

J. Delano distributed reports for each department showing the retention and graduation status of Rising Juniors who were declared majors in each program from 2007 to 2013. The average attrition-rates of Rising Juniors (TRN and FRS) in all CAS departments were plotted against the average number of Rising Juniors in each program. The reports revealed that students who entered the University as transfer students (TRN) leave UAlbany without completing their degree at a rate that is nearly double (~23% vs. 13%) that of students who were admitted as freshmen (FRS). This higher attrition rate among TRN students has been noted in the published literature for nearly 50 years, and attributed in part to “Transfer Shock” (i.e., TRN students are not able to adjust to the campus culture of a large research university).

Dean Wulfert stated that peer mentoring has been found to help retention since students are more willing to seek help from peers than from faculty members. This approach was emphasized at a recent conference on promoting diversity in the STEM fields that several CAS faculty members attended. The Center for Achievement, Retention and Student Success (CARSS), directed by Rabi Musah, provides peer mentoring and tutoring for students in the sciences. R. Musah will attend the next Council meeting to discuss the outcomes of CARSS.

In the meantime, Chairs should discuss their data with their faculty. Dean Wulfert charged the Chairs to be creative and approach the issue of student retention constructively. Chairs should create and submit retention plans based on the data they received.

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**Handouts:** Agenda
Minutes of the November 18, 2015, meeting
Selected slides from retention presentation
Departmental reports on rising juniors