

## Undergraduate Academic Affairs Council (UAAC)

October 27, 2011

Attendees: Gigi Escoe, Vice Provost Undergraduate Affairs (Chair), Frank Bowen (Student Life), Terrell Finney (Associate Dean, CCM), Pam Person (FYE and Learning Communities), Doug Burgess (Registrar), Lillian Santa-Maria (Ombuds Office), Mimi Martin (Associate Dean, Nursing), Regina Sapona (Associate Dean, CECH), Marlene Miner (Associate Dean, RWC), Rich Harknett (Chair of University Faculty), Debra Merchant (Student Services), Dawn Wilson (Housing), Raj Mehta (Honors Program), Tina Whalen (Associate Dean, Allied Health), Mare Lewis (Associate Dean, CoB), Allen Arthur (Associate Dean, CEAS), Afsaneh Ardehali (Faculty, CEAS and DAAP), Joanna Mitro (Associate Dean, A&S)

Not in attendance: Caroline Miller (Enrollment Management), Tara Warden (Asst. Dean A&S/Provost Liaison, Advising), Patricia Kucker (DAAP), Alan Hagerty (Student Government), Kettel Cedercreutz (Co-op and Experiential Learning), Jennifer Krivickas (Libraries, DAAP)

### Introductions

The Council welcomed Adrian Hall who began working in the Provost Office this week, having previously worked in Arts & Sciences. He will work with Gigi and will maintain the Council's Blackboard organization.

### Honors Updates (Raj)

Raj Mehta provided updates on the University Honors Program. Admissions statistics show that 344 freshmen entered in honors this fall, up from 325 last year. This number has significantly increased from previous years, and has risen by 53% since 2008. The Honors Program now plans to decrease its freshman yield to around 300-325 students in order to accommodate a greater number of students who can transfer into the program after their first year, while also increasing their average ACT. The average ACT has already significantly increased, going from 28.2 in 2006 to 31.6 this year. Honors is considering mandatory advising for its students.

The programs and activities organized by Honors include experiential learning, undergraduate research, and study abroad. Many of the research and study abroad programs are able to accommodate some additional qualifying students not enrolled in honors. Information about these opportunities will be shared through the Council's Bb organization and by email to help in referring interested students.

### First Year Experience (Pam)

Pam Person distributed a call for Interdisciplinary Living-Learning Community Proposals, with a deadline of January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Proposals go to Dawn Wilson, director of Resident Educational Development, who is chairing the review committee.

Pam is chairing a representative committee, which has been meeting to consider living-learning environments. Residential Houses assign a group of students with a shared learning interest to live within a defined university housing area. The Center for First Year Experience will collaborate with Resident Education and Development to select from among Living-Learning Community proposals and create Residential Houses with interdisciplinary focuses.

Pam asked colleges to publicize the call for proposals among faculty and staff. Those submitting proposals would need to consider a variety of funding sources. Across the country, similar programs effectively run on budgets of \$5,000 or less.

FYE is holding a photo contest for students, with a deadline of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Judges will review photos that reflect upon the first-year experience. Submissions will be posted to public websites, and Doug Burgess will communicate to ensure compliance with FERPA when displaying students' images.

### Courses with Near Capacity Enrollment (Adrian)

Adrian Hall distributed a list of courses identified as having high enrollment demand, which will be monitored in anticipation of capacity issues. High enrollment demand courses are identified if their capacity has historically struggled to accommodate the demand for enrollment.

After gauging courses' capacity and the academic programs requiring them, the Council will coordinate strategies to accommodate enrollment and increase student satisfaction through meeting expectations. One strategy will be for colleges to edit curriculum guides to shift certain courses from fall semester to spring semester during the first year, if possible within the program's curriculum. This would serve to create an expectation among groups of students that they will typically wait until spring semester before beginning a course, such as ENGL1001. Alleviating pressure on fall semester's enrollment numbers can help departments to accommodate demand in certain single-semester courses, by spreading their offerings more evenly throughout the full academic year.

### UC Forward (Gigi)

Gigi Escoe presented an overview of UC Forward and gave updates on its implementation. Discussed in July's UAAC meeting, UC Forward is a growing initiative to advance students' interdisciplinary experiences. These include interdisciplinary courses and various types of experiential learning.

UC is in a unique position to lead the way in this field and gain national attention for its initiative. The ICL vision at UC supports the inclusion of interdisciplinary study. The many different disciplinary competencies offered at the university provide a usable structure to deliver these experiences in a variety of combinations. Established partnerships with the city and local industries already serve our students in providing meaningful experiential learning.

Hundreds of UC students already participate in UC Forward courses, and the university must document and expand these learning experiences. Colleges can designate semester courses with the "T" attribute in eCurriculum, which allows for certain sections of that course to be offered as UC Forward classes. The colleges can review their existing courses to apply the "T" attribute when appropriate, and can also encourage faculty members in efforts to deliver UC Forward courses.

### Subcommittees (Summary gathered after meeting)

#### UC Forward

Members: Hagerty, Miner, Mitro, Person, Santa-Maria

The subcommittee members have been invited to attend UC Forward workshops being held this month. Online registration is available through the CET&L website.

#### Experiential learning

Members: Bowen, Hagerty, Martin, Mitro, Person

There are no new agenda items at this time until some further development.

#### Enhancing retention

Members: Burgess, Cedercreutz, Krivickas, Mehta, Merchant, Miner, Miller, Mitro, Sapona, Warden

There are no new agenda items at this time until some further development.

#### Improving coordination and student academic experiences in light of near capacity enrollments

Burgess, Finney, Hall, Martin, Miller, Mitro, Person, Warden, Wilson

A list of targeted courses has been generated. Reports on these courses' current capacity for 12FS and on the programs requiring them have been shared on the UAAC Bb organization.

Minutes: Adrian Hall