

**COUNCIL OF
STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES DIRECTORS**

MINUTES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2006
Room 250, Council Room, Student Union
10:00 a.m.*

Present: Chris Campbell, Jovette Dew, Alan Good, Mary Kay Jennings, Susan Johnson, Linda Martin, Marilyn Middlebrook, Lance Millis, Jerry Montag, Kevin Moore, Jessica Roark, Craig Robison, Kristi Thrift, Susan Weir, Missy Wikle, Rita Peaster, Gail Gates, and Marlene Strathe.

1. Introduction – Marlene Strathe

Dr. Strathe thanked Bill Ivy for his leadership of the group for the past several years.

2. Retention Initiatives (bring Freshman, First Semester and Transfer Reports)

The President of NCAA has proposed a goal of 80% retention rates for student athletes. Retention of all students is very important and Student Academic Services offices need to have a strong focus on this issue. What initiatives need to be taken to improve retention rates? The council needs to review the freshman, transfer, and first semester retention reports, previously distributed, and establish plans to increase retention. Enrollment Management is planning to create more orientation events to increase student engagement. In the first semester students need to be involved in the university with several levels of engagement for them to be successful. Advisers need professional development training on strategies to enhance student experiences. Two initiatives in recent years should help enhance student success: 1) the creation (or development of plans for) of student success centers in all colleges; and 2) the creation or expansion of living/learning communities.

a. Living/Learning Communities

Human Environmental Sciences (HES) noted that they have 60 students in the Village. HES hosted an event with the Alumni Board of Directors welcoming students and giving the students baskets filled with essential items. The college also offers communities of learners in which students enroll in the same freshman level courses (but do not necessarily live together). Dr. Strathe encouraged members to stop by HES and look at their posters that promote the communities.

Education noted that response from students to the Athletic Training Living/Learning Community has been positive.

University Academic Services (UAS) has a learning community involving English, Political Science, and orientation courses.

The Honors College has communities on three floors of Stout Hall and is receiving outstanding feedback.

Spears School of Business has two living/learning communities with two mentors and approximately 40 students. The dean and associate deans hosted a reception for

the students and the community mentors provided informational packets. The college is offering a couple of linked courses and an orientation class and plans to host more social events. The college plans to propose a presentation for the First Year Experience Annual meeting next year.

Arts and Sciences has 4 communities: Journalism/Broadcasting, Pre Health, Career Exploration and the Transfer Zone. They indicated that advertising/promotion must be sent out earlier this year. The Transfer Zone, shared with the College of Agriculture, consists of one community mentor and offers a one credit hour orientation class.

Engineering noted that they are not offering formally linked courses for students on the engineering floors. The Maude Squad, a community for women in CEAT, is in its second year.

Dr. Strathe and Dr. Gates met with Residential Life to discuss modifications to the program. It was noted that discussions to assess the living/learning communities are on going. Dr. Huss asked members to let him know if they knew of students wanting to join the living/learning communities for next semester and to notify those students that they need to make the requests.

b. RISE Update – Jovette Dew

The RISE (Retention Initiatives for Student Excellence) program, sponsored by the office of Institutional Diversity, engages students from diverse backgrounds, primarily minorities. Jovette noted that they have 26 enrolled and they are still accepting students through September 15, 2006.

3. Academic Services Fee Guidelines

Dr. Strathe asked members to review the Academic Services Fee Guidelines and commented that when the fee was created the intent was to enhance academic services. She asked the council to think about strategies to enhance success. Technology can assist with answering questions, listing deadlines, and providing options for resolution of common problems. Dr. Strathe cautioned members about using these funds in support of personnel as salaries increase and the fees do not. The university is trying to resist having to increase tuition or fees. Dr. Strathe noted that a request will be made asking for a report on fee expenditures.

4. Student-Athletes Taking NOC Classes – Marilyn Middlebrook

Dr. Middlebrook said that the current interpretation of the NCAA ruling is to allow student-athletes who are enrolled in at least 12 credit hours at OSU to also enroll at Northern Oklahoma College (NOC). Academic Services for Student Athletes (ASSA) is working with the Registrar's Office to pilot test an electronic routing process for athletic certification. Hopefully with the electronic system ASSA will be able to correct errors earlier and provide a good tracking mechanism. Dr. Middlebrook asked members for input.

5. Transfer Course Equivalency Follow-Up

Members were asked if they had questions or concerns in regards to the Transfer Course Equivalency. Please contact Rita Peaster with comments.

6. Adviser Training Sessions

September 26, 2006 “Using Technology Resources in Academic Advising”, 3:30-4:45 p.m., 406/407 Classroom Building.

September 29, 2006 “Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures”, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., 102 ATRC.

October 20, 2006 “Advising at a Distance and FERPA”, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence. (tentative)

7. Other

Jerry Montag asked members to review the new Declaration of Major Form and to provide feedback.

Dr. Strathe noted that the 2nd statewide conference on Oklahoma Women in Higher Education will be held November 3rd at the University of Central Oklahoma. They are expecting an attendance of 240. Speakers for this year’s conference are Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Dr. Ann Morgan, a nationally known consultant, working with foundations, trusts, and not-for-profit organizations. If there are any women interested in attending please call Academic Affairs or register on-line.

The United Way campaign will kick off on September 19th with the 21st Day of Caring. The Stillwater goal is \$760,000 and OSU’S goal is \$180,000. Dr. Strathe noted that there is an interest in increasing the level of participation and added that when OSU gives to United Way those funds benefit agencies that have touched over 3,000 faculty, staff, students and their families. The President will host a Wellness Walk on September 29th at 11:30 a.m., the cost is \$15 and individuals participating will receive a t-shirt. 500 faculty and staff are expected to participate.

University Academic Services asked that members encourage students to attend their tutoring sessions.

Attachment:

US News and World Report vs Big 12

Dr. Strathe noted that President Schmidly watches OSU’s ranking in the US News and World Report closely. The numbers represented on this report will be used as indicators as the council works to improve retention, etc.

After the Freshman Bubble Pops

Dr. Strathe encourages members to read the article on the sophomore experience and asked members to be gathering ideas on how to address the needs of sophomores.

Adjourn: 11:30 a.m.