

**COUNCIL OF
DIRECTORS OF STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES**

MINUTES

*October 17, 2012
204 Whitehurst
10:30 – 12:00 p.m.*

Present: Kari Alldredge, Barbara Bremer, Celeste Campbell, Chris Campbell, Christy Crenshaw, Steve Damron, Precious Elmore, Susan Johnson, James Knecht, Amy Martindale, Marilyn Middlebrook, Lance Millis, Kevin Moore, Rita Peaster, Jeremy Penn, Libby Reigh, Jessica Roark, Craig Satterfield, Kristi Seuhs, Missy Wikle, Robin Wilson, Chris Francisco and Pamela Fry.

1. STAR Update – James Knecht

James stated that STAR front desk manuals and the advanced manuals have been completed and can be found on the STAR System website: <http://star.okstate.edu> under the “Help” links. Feel free to review. ITLE is helping build FAQ documents. Four groups are up and running. James added an electronic trial study form which has proven to be very beneficial. It was noted that there is not a GradesFirst iPad application, though the program itself can be viewed on iPads, and its use is being reviewed. Another useful application being considered has the capability to allow pictures to be taken and those files can be move to and from the iPad and server. If this would be of interest to you, please let James know. Presently the program includes the ability to send/receive 60,000 text messages, if more volume is needed, it can be purchased in blocks and James can get the figures. Also as a reminder, announcements can be added to the program. James needs to know who would like to take part in the next training sessions, and can schedule them on a per group basis depending on what works for the colleges/centers.

2. BCT Communications – Amanda Droste

Please express to your advising staff that Amanda Droste might call on behalf of Academic Affairs and/or the BCT for well-being checks on students. A call from our office does not indicate that a student is in any type of distress or is a danger to self or others. She is simply collecting information to share with the team. Amanda will share details of each situation as needed. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amanda Droste or Pam Fry for additional details.

3. ALEKS Cut-Off for MATH – Jeremy Penn and Chris Francisco

Dr. Francisco noted that MATH 1493 this course, taught by Dr. Crauder, focused on life skills teaching. Math 1493 is the Department of Mathematics's quantitative literacy course, giving a gentle introduction to mathematical ideas that occur in everyday life, such as questions about personal finance, statistics, and voting. It is essentially a terminal course, serving only as an allowable prerequisite for our specialized math courses for elementary education majors, and thus it will be many students' last math class. The student success rates in Math 1493 have been good for several years, even prior to the introduction of the ALEKS placement system. Moreover, a significant number of students earn a grade of A, meaning they finish taking math with a positive mathematical experience. With the requirement of a 25 on ALEKS to enroll in Math 1493, Fall 2012 enrollment fell approximately 60% compared to Fall 2011 enrollment. While this may have

been reasonable if 1493 had a high DFW rate prior to ALEKS, it seems suboptimal given that these students were already doing well without ALEKS. The Fall 2012 six-week DFW percentage in 1493 is 9.3%. Moreover, evidence from the past three years suggests that final DFW rates will not differ significantly from six-week DFW rates, often actually improving. (Please see the attached table for details.) Consequently, the Department of Mathematics would be happy to accommodate additional students in Math 1493 starting in Spring 2013, lowering the ALEKS entry requirement from 25 to 20. We recognize adding some students of this level will likely increase the DFW rate a little, but we do not anticipate it reaching a problematic level. The Mathematics Department understands there may be additional issues to consider beyond the likelihood of success for one of these students in 1493 this spring (e.g., the effect on remediation requirements). This something Instruction Council (IC) is better situated to evaluate than the Department is, but if IC believes this is a reasonable plan, we will put it into effect for Spring 2013 in order to accommodate students as soon as possible. It was noted that there are over 200 students with ALEKS scores between 20 and 24 and about 100 students would be able to clear remediation. Dr. Francisco commented that MATH 1483 could be considered in the future but not presently as the course is a prerequisite to other courses. It was noted that a course could be developed that couches students about the ALEKS testing. Discussions need to take place with Northern Oklahoma College about ALEKS as it pertains to remedial course work. It was noted that the Mathematics Department offers tutoring services in the Math Learning Success Center (MLC). On November 19th Arts and Sciences will send out a list of students with ALEKS scores between 20 and 24. If members are in agreement, this change will become effective Spring 2014.

4. Remediation Notification Communications – Pamela Fry

Dr. Fry noted that there has been a big drop in Math and Science remediation. In the past there has been email notifications sent to the Directors of Student Academic Services. This process will be reestablished.

5. Panorama Presentation – Kari Alldredge

Panorama refers to OSU's holistic admissions option – specifically the development of new essay questions designed to assist in identifying future students by considering different strengths of students including leadership potential. The essay responses are used for admission evaluation and scholarships. Essay responses provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate motivation and reveal attributes beyond test scores and GPA. The questions are designed to measure analytical, creative, practical, and wisdom-based skills, as defined in Dr. Sternberg's WICS Theory of Leadership. Freshmen who do not meet one of the three assured admission criteria will be considered for holistic and alternative admission by an Admissions Review Committee, who will evaluate the student holistically (considering: GPA, academic rigor, class rank, test scores, essay questions, and letters of recommendation). This review will take place upon receipt of students' 7th semester high school transcript. Freshmen admitted under the holistic admission criteria are eligible to receive Oklahoma's Promise. Freshmen admitted under the alternative admission criteria are **not eligible** to receive Oklahoma's Promise, but will receive a one-time \$1000 scholarship that can be applied toward tuition their first semester freshmen year.

6. Other

In future meetings Dr. Fry will give updates on OSU – Oklahoma City and OSU Institute of Technology.

Dr. Fry asked if members would be interested in purchasing iPads. Who would be most knowledgeable regarding the functionality of iPads? Shawn Rose in Arts and Sciences, Chris Campbell in LASSO, and Susan James. Is there enough interest to develop a proposal for your college?

Adjourn: **12:00 P.M.**