

**COUNCIL OF
DIRECTORS OF STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES**

MINUTES

October 21, 2015

204 Whitehurst

10:30 – 12:00

Present: Barbara Bremer, Chris Campbell, Steve Damron, Sarah Gordon, Ebonie Hill-Williamson, Amy Martindale, Marilyn Middlebrook, Lance Millis, Rita Peaster, Kristi Seuhs, Richard Shepard, Celeste Taber, Susan Tolbart, Keila Whitaker, and Pamela Fry.

1. Banner Update – Rita Peaster

The Banner catalog/course inventory is in production and we plan to integrate it with the Registrar's website (Monday, October 26th, is the expected date for the switch). Rita and Celeste took feedback from the group on ideas to make the course catalog easier to use. Banner training for advisors will be scheduled during the week of January 25 – 29, and Rita will provide more details as we get closer to the start of the spring semester. Mock 1 testing was completed two weeks ago, Mock 2 testing will be held in early December, and Mock 3 testing is planned for February. Rita also noted that conversion of academic history is going through its second round. The Banner go-live date for Fall 2016 registration is planned for mid-March.

2. Introduction of John Mark Day – Lee Bird

Dr. Bird introduced the new Director of Leadership and Campus Life, John Mark Day, and commented that this position now has a greater focus on leadership development and the position name has been changed to reflect this. The Big Idea Committee that Dr. Bird serves on has been working on initiatives for the University and leadership is one of those initiatives as well as looking at ways to improve the international student experience. Another initiative is to ensure that faculty, staff, and students are aware of services available to them including both physical and mental health services.

3. 2016 Advisors' Conference Date – Pamela Fry

September 9th, 16th, or 23rd.

Dr. Fry noted asked members to decide on a preferred date for the 2016 Advisors' Conference and members noted September 9, 2016.

(Note: since this meeting, the date has changed to September 16, 2016.)

4. Discussion of DSAS's Ideas for Freshman Retention – Pamela Fry

Dr. Fry noted that members have seen the retention numbers and the President is interested in increasing this effort. Dr. Fry asked members, what should be a reasonable aspirational retention goal? There will continually be a priority to improve numbers on retention. What type of ideas do members have to improve retention? Members noted that the number of advisors should be increased. Dr. Fry asked what should the practical optimal advising ratio be, 100 to 200 per adviser? Members noted that 100 to 120 students per advisor would be a preferable ratio. Dr. Fry asked members to give their thoughts on why students are leaving the University. Members noted that there are issues with students not understanding the financial aspect of their education, even though the financial information is going out to students. It was also noted that students are coming to OSU when they really can't afford it. It was also noted that counseling for students with psychological problems must be addressed as it takes weeks for a student to receive any counseling. Dr. Fry commented that she would like for all students to have academic, financial, and engagement plans. Members asked if high school counselors advised

students on financial education as preparation for college and it was noted that some high school students receive advisement but many do not. It was said that possibly the New Student Orientation materials could be reviewed. Dr. Fry intends to schedule an action planning retreat for this effort.

Dr. Fry wanted to thank all for their help with the HLC Accreditation site visit, and noted that OSU received positive feedback. It was great to be able to demonstrate the efforts with advising and to be able to use resources from surveys. Also HLC recognized OSU's efforts from advisors and with advisement. The NSSE results also relayed that the advising efforts at OSU were positive.

Dr. Fry also wanted to thank curriculum coordinators and others involved with their efforts in the 30-10 general education changes on the degree sheets.

Dr. Fry would like to have an open house in the University College and possibly include some presentations from key staff about functions of the University College. Dr. Fry asked when would be a good time for this and it was noted during finals week but avoid Friday due to commencement. Rick Hanson has worked to coordinated communications with the veterans groups. In addition there will be a ceremony on the library lawn with over 6,000 American Flags placed on the ground representing those service men that have lost their lives. A dinner for veterans is also being planned the same day.

Dr. Fry noted that Amy Cole is working with institutions on transfer agreements and noted that OSU needs to have more transferability between two year institutions. Pam will plan a retreat for an action plan for this effort.

Adjourned: 12:00 p.m.