Minutes
Academic Advising Council
Thursday, January 17, 2008

Chair: Greg Young, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Present: Pat Lane, Melissa Hansen, Judi Beckendorf, Jeff Adams, Melody Zajdel, Phil Gaines, Linda McDonald, Brenda York, Erika Swanson, Diane Dorgan, Renee Hecox, Janet Heiss-Arms, Pat Hanson, Kathy Tanner, Cyndi Meldahl, Carina Beck, Florence Garcia, Kathy Weaver, Jim Burns

1. Adam Edelman presented information regarding IT Security. Adam gave some background information on why we need to be aware of security for information using the recent “blunders” as examples. Confidential information had been stored on public sites and laptops and this is the information that was discovered and compromised. These “blunders” could have been avoided by some simple measures:
   a. Awareness - Get educated on security measures
   b. Better daily use of your computer including use of antivirus and antispyware.
   c. Learn the options for storing sensitive information.

   He discussed such security concerns as managing information data and managing systems (desktop computer). Per Adam all information stored on your hard drive is at risk. The appropriate place to store any sensitive information would be on a secure server.

   There are handouts (see attached) for more information on Adam’s presentation and Adam said he would be happy to visit with any groups or individuals to assist them in learning how to secure their information. Just contact him at 994-5091.

   The discussion on securing information led to a discussion on posting student grades and what information can be release to parents. This led to questions on appropriate forms for release of information. More information on this subject will be sought and Release of Information forms will be on a future agenda.

2. Information on Americorp Service Scholarships was presented by Kathy Tanner of Community Involvement. Here is a description of these scholarships prepared by Kathy Tanner.

   AmeriCorps is a national service initiative that encourages people to commit to serving in their communities in exchange for an education award which is funds that must be used to pay for higher education expenses.

   The MSU Office for Community Involvement (OCI) can garner unlimited numbers of 300, 450, and 900 hour AmeriCorps positions that can be filled by students who are engaged in work with non-profit or tax-exempt organizations as part if their academic requirements or recommendations made by professors. This service work can be in the form of unpaid internships, individual problems rubrics, service learning components to course, or recommended add on service associated with classes.
We need help spreading the word to faculty and students about these opportunities to enroll in an AmeriCorps position through our office and count the hours spent serving the community to meet academic requirements toward the 300/450/900 hours. Students can perform an internship one semester with a non-profit and continue in a service capacity outside of course work to complete the hours. They have 1 calendar year (12 months) to complete a 300 or 450 hour term of service. They have 2 years (24 months) to complete a 900 hour term of service. A handout was given to all in attendance that explains this and outlines the education awards associated with each term of service (300 hrs=$1000, 450 hrs=$1250, 900 hrs=$2362).

OCI does all the paperwork with students, enters them into the system, chases them for time logs, exits them and works with them to access the funds on-line so that there is no additional burden on MSU faculty or departmental staff.

Given that internships with non-profit groups are one way students can enroll in these positions the OCI will work with Career Services to promote this to internship coordinators campus-wide. This program will have put more than $400,000 in the pockets of MSU students to help pay for school by the end of this academic year.

For more information on this topic please contact Kathy Tanner at 994-6902.

3. Phil Gaines & Judi Beckendorf announced the upcoming Advising Workshops. There will be an all campus workshop on Wednesday, February 13th over the lunch hour. Additionally, they will be meeting with individual colleges for advising workshops; the first one being the College of Letters and Science on March 5th. They are willing to do this for any college that makes a request.

4. Greg Young and Judi Beckendorf announced the upcoming NACADA conferences. The national conference will be in Chicago in October and there will be a regional conference in Vancouver in March (17-19). The 2009 regional conference will be held in Montana. The state conference this year will be in Billings in September.

5. Carina Beck announced the upcoming Career Fairs: Ag Career Fair February 6th and the all-college Career Fair will February 21st.

6. Greg wanted everyone to know that our MSU Advising initiative was unlikely to be funded this biennium.

7. Announcement: Due to a schedule conflict with a class, we will need to change the location of our meetings through spring semester. Please watch for the announcement on new location.

8. Next Meeting: Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Location: TO BE ANNOUNCED

The meeting was adjourned.