ACADEMIC ADVISING COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2007 - Draft

CHAIR: Gregory Young, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

PRESENT: Kylie Perlinski, Sara Browne, Joan Savage, Rob Maher, Janet Heiss-Arms, Pat Hanson, Cyndi Meldahl, Jane Cary, Judi Beckendorf, Linda McDonald, Melissa Hansen, Chris Lamb, Brenda York, Amy Thompson, Melody Zajdel, Bonnie Ashley, Phil Gaines, Diane Donnelly

ADVISING & RETENTION – Greg Young

- Advising is the “Buzz” on campus now; very positive
- Met with L & S Dept. Heads yesterday and discussed various types used in depts.
- Greg and Jeff Adams charged by Provost Dooley to investigate centralized advising center
  - Advising is being talked about because of its effect on retention. MSU has great examples of different advising models. Work with Deans, Dept Heads to look at best practices and areas for improvement. This is the beginning of a cross-campus conversation on advising. Major issue is Fall-to-Fall, first-time, full-time retention. Our current level is 71% and goal is 75%.

Discussion:

- Institution centered vs. College centered models?
  - Diane: MSU-Billings has centralized advising center; use as model?
  - Bonnie: MSU-B advising center controls registration
  - Rob: What are the problems? Go after those first and work on that. Keep in mind the value of faculty conversations with students vs. just record-keeping
  - Linda: How to get uniformity in advising quality across campus? Goal in AG is for support for quality advising to come “from the top down” and get faculty involved across the board.
  - Question: Are certain colleges feeling the stress of advising? Modern Languages has more majors/minors than they can handle for advising
  - Options: Cohort advisors, ie: Freshman Advisor, Sophomore, etc; group sessions?
  - Student needs: Rob – A student not succeeding in classes initial semester(s) – how do we identify & help them? Amy – FYI Office support, D & F list, one-on-one. Phil – Example of student who starts in major and finds it’s not a good fit – they need to have a place to go to have that conversation as may not feel comfortable talking to major advisor (SIT Advisor, Judi, in US).
  - Greg - How do we bring info from these meetings to our departments?
  - Greg wants to talk with all department heads across campus about advising
  - Phil – Resources available for colleges to have advising models which will fit needs of college and/or departments?
  - Cyndi – Training for colleges/departments on advising best practices? Educ. Dept. looking at “mentoring” meetings so students have access to faculty to talk issues beyond basic details of advising. Educ feels they are successful in covering “details” now thru their Advising Center, but students needs opportunities to talk with faculty about issues and opportunities for enhancing education.
CAPP PROGRAM REPORT – Bonnie Ashley

- CAPP program available for advisor use for upcoming advising/registration period; student access by Fall 07.
- Marilyn Morgan has been meeting with all departments about their degrees
- Our program same as the Banner system program used by MSU-Billings

**Discussion:**
- Rob – Disappointed as doesn’t show what courses are missing and doesn’t pick up special courses
- Pat Hanson – Nursing has own program which works better for their needs, so they will continue to use it
- Chris Lamb – Teach students to run CAPP for themselves; part of their responsibility for their own education

RETENTION SCHOLARSHIPS – Greg Young

Provost’s Office will offer “Retention Scholarships” for first time; announcement will go out next week. These will be 1-time, maximum $1,000 for students who would not return without this money. More info on process will be forthcoming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- Jane Cary – 11 of the 20 Montana students accepted into WAMI for Fall 07 are MSU students. All of the first-round students accepted by WAMI had international experience of some sort. Two people with double-majors in a language were accepted.
- Greg – Should we sponsor a luncheon workshop on advising just for faculty? YES
- Greg -- Send Greg email if you want to me on Centralized Advising Committee
- Amy – D & F List for freshmen is ready; let her know if you want a copy
- Joan – New form for departments to use to inform Transfer Evaluation staff of specific substitutions for courses in their major

Prepared by: Diane Donnelly