Minutes
Academic Advising Council
Thursday, November 15, 2007

Chair: Greg Young, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Present: Diane Dorgan, Linda McDonald, Amy Thompson, Judi Beckendorf, Pat Hanson, Chris Lamb, Cyndi Meldahl, Brenda York, Erika Swanson, Renee Hecox, Jane Boyd, Florence Garcia

1. TRiO Update
Florence Garcia distributed a handout with TRiO spring semester course offerings (EDCI 280, ENGL 121, MATH 085, and MATH 103). The courses are open to students in the TRiO program and registration will take place at the TRiO office. Students should be particularly encouraged to register for the math classes which have been experiencing low enrollments.

Florence also distributed copies of the TRiO Fall 2007 newsletter, which included a story about three MSU TRiO students who have won TRiO-sponsored scholarships to study abroad in Africa during spring semester 2008. Florence will post an announcement about the awards on the TRiO web page and Greg will coordinate a statewide press release. The TRiO office also recently announced an opportunity to study in Europe next summer.

The committee briefly discussed ways of increasing student awareness of the TRiO program. In addition to a flyer in freshman orientation packets, other strategies need to be utilized to reach more students, such as announcements at new faculty and/or departmental orientations. For now, Florence will send a list of TRiO opportunities to all departments. The TRiO program is open to students who meet at least one of the following three requirements: first generation, or low income, or disabled.

2. Centralized Advising Task Force Report
Greg Young distributed copies of the Centralized Advising Task Force Report which has been submitted to UPBAC. Subcommittees have been created by UPBAC to examine several initiatives, among them undergraduate research which includes an advising piece. Greg invited the committee to review the document once more and notify him about any changes.

The committee discussed the remodeling of Gaines Hall. In addition to the MSU Academic Advising Center, the remodeled building will house University Studies, Liberal Studies, American Studies, and the National Student Exchange-Study Abroad program. Greg and Phil Gaines are currently considering names for the advising center, among them “Center for Student Success” and “University College Center.” Additional suggestions from committee members included “MSU Academic Advising Center” and simply “University College.” Expected completion of the remodeling is Fall 2010.

3. Advising Workshop Update
Judi Beckendorf reported on the spring semester advising workshop schedule. Per the committee’s suggestions, two separate workshops will be offered: one campus-wide workshop on Tuesday, March 4 and one for faculty only on March 18. Both workshops will be offered before fall/summer advising begins (March 24). The committee discussed the possibility of
offering separate workshops for colleges. Greg will approach the deans of Letters & Science and Arts & Architecture with the idea.

4. **Announcements/Business Items**
   
a. **AP Chemistry Substitution**
   Due to a recent meeting with a student who was given incorrect information, Pat Hanson wished to clarify that the College of Nursing will not accept AP chemistry as a substitute for CHEM 121 or CHEM 131. She will reiterate this in an email to the committee or reintroduce the topic at another meeting which is better attended. The Department of Chemistry accepts AP chemistry only as a core elective because it does not provide enough background for higher level chemistry courses. Other departments, however, may choose to accept it as a substitute for 121/131.

b. **Net Generation Workshop**
   Chris Lamb announced that the College of Business will hold their spring retreat in January the week before classes start. A presentation by Carie Windham on the Net Generation—how they learn and how they view and use technology—will be included in the retreat. A repeat presentation will be offered to faculty campus-wide during that same week.

c. **Pre-Health Professions Advising**
   Greg announced that Frank Newman has assumed the position of interim pre-health professions advisor.

5. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, December 13 at 10:00 a.m. in 325 Leon Johnson Hall.