

## ACN Meeting Minutes April 15, 2008

### *Members Present:*

R. Alioto, K. Baith, K. Barnes, S. Blair, T. Buss, S. Chetney, K. Coffaro, T. Current, R. Daniel, T. Deutsch, L. Fitzenberger, K. Folstein, G. Gilbert, S. Gruzis, D. Gygi, J. Harper, J. Hawkins, B. Hinshaw, D. Holloway, C. Kaye, M. Knasinski, K. Koncki, G. Kopke, H. Matera, S. Mitchell, L. Molina, P. Mullikin, A. Northrup, K. Omachinski, D. Patnode, H. Pfersch, V. Provost, J. Rahmer, A. Randall, C. Rasavong, K. Raymond, K. Roosevelt, A. San Diego, J. Schiedt, L. Siekert, K. Silvestre, B. Simon, M. Solis, H. Spearman, B. Thomas, B. Warner, A. Wrench, S. Zlotocha

### *Kim Folstein and Amy Randall, Department of Enrollment Services*

Comprehensive admissions policies were validated by a June 2003 decision of the Michigan Supreme Court, which ruled that it was appropriate for institutions of higher education to consider a variety of factors, such as race, in admission decisions but not to give special reference to those factors. The UW system decided to consider all relevant factors in favor of admitting students besides just the ones “on paper” such as test scores. UWM had already been informally following a comprehensive admissions policy before this time, but has now adopted it formally. UWM considers the following factors when making an admissions decision: high school units (coursework,) high school performance (GPA and class rank,) standardized test scores, and nonacademic factors such as leadership, extracurricular involvement, socioeconomic status, and racial/ethnic background.

A multi-tiered approach is used in which different units review the applicant’s files. The time from application filing to completion takes 13 days now, down from 26 days in 2006. From completion of a file to an admission decision, the elapsed time is now 5 days as opposed to 10 days in 2006.

Implications of the policy change: a new application deadline (July 1 for Fall 2008, not August 1,) and more effective summer support programs. Advisors need to contact the office for late approvals, and need to make sure their letters of information to students reflect the new changes. Their late summer workloads may now be eased a little. New initiatives of DES include an incomplete applicant campaign, a diversity campaign, a postcard campaign with assistance from current students, involvement by the First Year Center and the Multicultural Student Center, and the You@UWM overnight event with the Department of Recruitment and Outreach.

More information is available at [www.desforms.uwm.edu](http://www.desforms.uwm.edu) for students who need to cancel an application, change majors or terms or request fee waivers. (The forms do need to be printed out, signed, and submitted.) Contact Kim Folstein at [folstein@uwm.edu](mailto:folstein@uwm.edu) (x3491, MEL 212) or Amy Randall at [ampr@uwm.edu](mailto:ampr@uwm.edu) (x4481, MEL 212.)

### *Seth Zlotocha and Kristin Roosevelt, Enhancing Advising subcommittee of ACN*

The January 2008 survey results were presented to the committee. Responses were received from 18 offices, with a mix of academic and student services offices. All offer advising in person and by phone, 17 also via e-mail, 4 also in group sessions. Appeals procedures vary by office, with

the majority handling them by committee or by the individual advisor. Weekend advising is offered by five units, evening advising offered by eight consistently, three by request. PAWS is used most often for student services center information and student information, including advisement reports. These reports are used during advising appointments most often for periodic requirement checks and graduation clearances.

An in-house check sheet is used 56% of the time to advise students on graduation requirements. Advisors are also involved in exceptions to graduation requirements, and request updates and enhancements to PAWS to improve efficiency.

#### *Erricca Pollack, First Year Center*

Ruth Williams introduced Erricca Pollack, director of the First Year Center in Bolton 192 ([pollacke@uwm.edu](mailto:pollacke@uwm.edu), x6760.) Erricca presented the goals of the Center: to continue to serve students peer-to-peer through the Campus Ambassador program beginning at new freshmen orientation, continuing through the activities of the 40 first year mentors, new First Year student staff, Living Learning Communities and LINKS mentoring. New programming is planned, as well as increased connections with all faculty and advisors who work with first year students.

#### *Announcements*

Nominations were requested for ACN co-chairs and awards committee members. The deadline is Friday April 18th, nominations e-mailed to Lori Fitzenberger at [lorifitz@uwm.edu](mailto:lorifitz@uwm.edu). Short biographies are due by April 23rd and ballots will be e-mailed afterward; voting takes place April 25 – May 9, with the winners announced at the next ACN meeting on May 20.

The School of Information Studies is offering a new summer weekend course that carries U/G credit: The European Information Society in a Global Context (L&I SCI 691.)

Registration for fall classes starts on Monday April 21. The number of students that can register per hour has decreased from 500 to 300. Billing for students will change in fall to an online system only, and statements of account will be instantly updated and will also include housing and meal plan charges.

There is a new Q&A area on the financial aid web page now. The financial aid system is going to become self-service: students won't be sent an award letter but can view their awards in PAWS. Students will now need to formally accept loans and work study awards.

The Tutoring and Academic Resource Center is sponsoring a workshop for students on Exam Preparation and Test Taking Strategies, to be presented in Bolton 196 at noon on Tuesday April 29 and Bolton 192 (FYC) at noon on Tuesday May 6th.

Students for whom English is not their first language should be reminded to sign up for ESL courses this fall since UWM does not survey them first about this issue.