

ACN Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2009

Members Present:

K. Barnes, S. Byrne Irwin, C. Cepeda, C. Clark, R. Cocos, K. Coffaro, T. Current, J. Dvorak, L. Fitzenberger, C. Franklin, L. Fuller, S. Gosz, S. Gruzis, D. Gygi, N. Halloran, J. Harper, B. Hinshaw, S. Kaempfer, L. Kasten, C. Kaye, K. Kisch, J. Klumpp, M. Knasinski, K. Koncki, A. Kowaliczko, A. Maldonado, T. McGhee, R. McGraw, M. Meyers, S. Mitchell, L. Molina, J. Murray, A. Northrup, J. Rahmer, C. Rasavong, K. Raymond, E. Rolland, K. Roosevelt, T. Scheer, M. Schmid, B. Simon, H. Spearman, Y. Tejada, D. Vang, J. Wishman, C. Wolf, S. Zlotocha

Corey Vigdor, Outreach Manager, CollegeBoard, College Level Examination Program

The role of advisors in the College Level Examination Program (CLEP): College advisors are the strongest influences on the decision to take CLEP. 62% of test-takers talked with their advisors about it first. Four steps to advising students: 1) Understand CLEP facts and benefits, 2) know your college's CLEP policy, 3) identify CLEP candidates, and 4) inform the candidates.

CLEP allows students to earn college credit by passing any of 34 exams (this number may change next year.) It validates what the student already knows and serves diverse groups, including those in the military.

More than 6 million exams have been administered since 1967; 2900 colleges grant credit and 1500 administer the exams (UWM is the only test site in Milwaukee.) The exams are scored on a scale of 20-80; there's a \$70 exam fee plus a test center administration fee (\$25 at UWM.) Most schools don't accept all 34 of the CLEP exams – UWM doesn't accept foreign language, English or math.

The exams are computer-based and non-adaptive, 90 minutes in length, with "rights only" scoring (no penalty for wrong answers.) More than 600 faculty develop and set standards. The most widely used exam is Spanish. Close to 40% of test takers are college juniors and seniors; 14% are college freshmen, 17% are high school students or graduates. 25% of test takers are age 19-22, 22% are over 35. CLEP exams are free for active military; veterans can seek reimbursement through the VA.

At UWM, about 80-100 scores are received per year, and about 70 of those have scores of 50 or higher (50 is the usual passing grade.) 16% are freshmen, 25% are seniors. The most popular exams are those for Human Growth and Development, Principles of Marketing, and Information Systems.

UWM's testing center administered 540 exams to 406 candidates in 2007-2008.

Identify CLEP candidates by looking for students with knowledge in CLEP areas, students fluent in another language, students at risk for stopping (postponing) enrollment, students with high SAT or ACT scores, or upper division students who have not met lower-division requirements. Advisors should know the exams UWM accepts, the passing scores, and the equivalent courses. Be aware of testing center information and key CLEP contacts, and any conditions for accepting CLEP credits. There are free resources available as well as the CLEP official study guide (\$24.95) and the CLEP online examination guides (\$10.)

Contacts: CLEP@collegeboard.org
cvigdor@collegeboard.org
www.collegeboard.com/clep

At UWM: Nancy Halloran, Testing Center (229-5277 or destest@uwm.edu)

Lori Fitzenberger, Tina Current, New GER initiative "Give the Students a Compass"

UWM has received a grant to reform the general education requirements; the grant is through the Association of American Colleges and Universities. The campus will be looking at a transformation to an outcome-based general education in nine areas; courses will need to demonstrate how they meet these outcome-based initiatives. This project was launched in January – all the deans have been informed by

Associate Vice Chancellor Dev Venugopalan and Associate Dean for Humanities Jeffrey Merrick, to be followed by departments and faculty.

ACN Call for Nominations

There are two openings to serve on the ACN committee this spring:

- ACN secretary/treasurer (a two-year term)
- One opening on the ACN Recognition Committee. This committee meets two to three times per year.

Interested members may nominate themselves or others; email Kristin (kroosev@uwm.edu) or Sharon (schetney@uwm.edu) by April 15th.

Campus Community Reports

Enhancing Advising Subcommittee

A freshman advising survey went out to students in Health and in Nursing. Advising brochures are available for distribution this summer.

Graduation and Retention Workgroup

Access to Success is planning to hold four brownbag lunches on different topics on Fridays, toward the end of the semester.

Financial Aid

Advising has been 100% walk-in, but the department is now moving toward appointment-based advising. This will increase hours of availability for students. Monday evenings will be kept for walk-in hours and other busy times at the beginning of the semester will still be walk-in.

Center for International Education

Most of the students who have applied for fall programs have been notified; summer students will be notified soon.

LGBT Resource Center

The last training dates for the semester for Safe Space training are listed on the website. There will be an Ally Networking event in the Union on Thursday May 14th from noon-1 pm for Safe Space training participants.

Enrollment Services

The new enrollment process in PAWS enables students to select courses individually from their shopping carts. Applications for fall enrollment are down about 6% from last year (but are still at over 10,000) and admits are down 10%. Transfer applications are down 3% - but many applications are still in process. 1500 students came to UWM for placement testing over spring break; the show rate was 93%. There is a new staff position opening in the area of freshman orientation.

Student Accessibility Center

Cassie Franklin is leaving her position with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program on March 31 but will remain at UWM.

The Above and Beyond Award for faculty is changing its name to the SAC Excellence Award and is open for nominations from students through April.

Tutoring and Academic Resource Center

Please refer students to TARC, including for the one on one tutoring services. SI students are already downloaded into a TARC D2L tutoring site for online tutoring.

Announcements

The Non-teaching Academic Staff Review Committee is holding a spring workshop on April 9, to help with the preparation of files for indefinite appointment. A drop-in workshop will be held in May so files can be brought in for feedback.

Cathy Kaye – ESL courses are a good option for students who are non-native speakers of English. This is even true for students who are lifelong residents of Wisconsin but for whom English is a second language. The English Placement Test doesn't always do an accurate job of placing non-native speakers, especially because it doesn't test English reading comprehension. The ESL-PIC placement test includes a writing sample and reading comprehension.

Celeste Clark. American Indian Student Services – an Indian Taco sale will be held on Thursday March 26 as a fundraiser for April events; this sale is co-sponsored with the American Indian Student Association.

Next ACN meeting: Tuesday April 21st 8:30 am Union 191.