

ACN Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2013

Members present: T. Badura, K. Baker, K. Barnes, C. Breither, J. Broskowski, Y. Castellano, S. Conway, T. Deutsch, J. Dvorak, J. Hayes, N. Heinen, B. Hinshaw, J. Kiefer, M. Knasinski, A. Kowaliczko, N. Krubsack, S. Lake, J. Lockman, K. Masshardt, I. McLaughlin, C. Morris, P. Muas-Xiong, B. Mueller, A. Northrup, D. Northrup, C. Parks, D. Patnode, S. Perkins, K. Powers, N. Reinbold, K. Roosevelt, A. Sadowsky, B. Simon, J. Spiess, T. Springstead, L. Stark, D. Unertl, B. Williams, C. Wolf, A. Wrench

Total: 40

Military and Veteran's Resource Center (MAVRC) Update – Mike Kirchner

Numbers

- 1,000,00+ using new GI Bill
- \$30,000,000,000 new government spent
- \$15,000,000 to UWM

Transition

- Culture Shock
- Educators and staff have their own concerns and assumptions
 - People worried that all vets have PTSD or that they are a ticking time bomb
- Veterans face an environment that doesn't always honor their work
 - Examples: in classes - faculty talking about the war...
- No chain of command, accessible advisements
- Vets are ID'ing faculty as point of contact on campus – if they don't respond can feel like they are getting blown off
- May decide to go back to the military
 - It's what they know and are comfortable with

Military is team- oriented – in college you have a lot more freedom

Veteran finds the structure reassuring

1000s of hours of training in Military – in college – minimal preparation

Military – has quantitative accomplishments – College and civilian life in comparison can make them feel like a failure- or that they are behind on life (friends get degrees, jobs, are promoted, get married, have kids, etc.)

MAVRC – first stop shop for campus and community

Making a more Veteran friendly campus – truly veteran friendly

SAFE SPACE - they get about 40 visits a day

Advice for Advisors

- Don't have chairs with their back to a door
- Have a well-lit space
- Talk loud enough
- Remain attentive
- Show interest – try to read student they may be open to sharing their experience
- Consider the questions – avoid questions about missions/killing, why are you struggling, don't make one veteran speak for millions of soldiers, don't single them out.
- Talk about the campus and resources available – MAVRC, Student Vet organization
- 1000+ veterans and family members using military benefits

Summarize 3 entities and what they do

1. **Military education benefits office** – Jim Schmidt – reference what their benefits cover – he can help them clarify
2. **MAVRC** – everything else a student would need – open at about 7:15 am = every day, employment leads, conversation, learn from other vets, Vets Success program Union 340 but also spends time in MAVRC
3. **Student Veterans Organization** – focused on engagement, fund raising , fun activities

They are HOPING to do Military and Veterans orientation on the same day as TASO sessions.

- Will have some veteran specific sessions
- Vets will still have the opportunity to meet with advisor

Question: Any efforts to seek out Professors who have served – who may be willing to help with programming? Answer: work in progress

Life Impact Program – Natalie Reinbold Life Coach and Program Coordinator

Handout (attached)

Loves following MAVRC – both non-traditional students who need some extra support

Statistics:

- UWM – Fall 13 – FAFSA records show 1250 UG with dependents, and 453 Grad students who have dependents - there may be more not everyone files FAFSA!

- Most Student Parents are Pell Grant eligible
- Cumulative GPA of Student Parents 2.4 = are struggling a bit

Extra Challenges:

- When they have a problem with barriers – it has a ripple effect with the family
 - Example: Problem paying rent – eviction notice – also worry about children!

Application process, rules and preferences:

- January 2 – application process will be open for 2014-15 – rules on hand out
- Students can apply for life impact if they are still applying for UWM and still applying for FAFSA
- Preference single parents
- 2.5 or above GPA
- Preference first bachelor's degree
- 2 or more semesters at least left of program
- Anyone with a child and low income welcome to apply
- Current awardees - mostly single mothers, but also married couples and single dads

Still funds available for Spring 2014

- **Have until December 27, 2013 to complete a spring application for 2014**

Other details about support:

- 5000 renewable scholarship through graduation or up to \$20,000
- Emergency funds available
- Probationary support
- Post graduation support
- Workshops, support groups, family friendly events
- Support from all parts of university
- 154 scholars and 211 children served

Student Stats:

- 87% graduation rate
- All have obtained employment
- 3.159 for Life Impact average GPA at graduation
- Take more credits than people not in program
- Take out about \$7K less in loans than other students
- Also tend to receive additional scholarships too

MAPWORKS results:

- Required to take Mapworks survey – first year of snapshot
- Thought it wouldn't be that helpful because she knows her students so well = but found it very eye opening and was surprised at all the concerns she didn't know about
 - Only 17% felt confident they could pay their monthly expenses
 - 27% felt not confident about finances
 - Many work (stats on sheet)
 - Few plan to join student org or take on leadership role on campus
 - Feel accepted on campus – but not enough opportunity to make peer connection.
 - 40% had test anxiety as a top five issue of concern
 - Most have not missed many classes
 - Most have decided a major
 - Most plan to stay at UWM
 - Most plan to get a masters or doctorate

Student Parent Programs and populations around the country:

- Unsure how many student parent population programs there are around the country
- Only half finish their degree nationwide
- U of M, Ohio State, Berkeley, U of Iowa – have student parent programs – we are pretty in line with these university
 - Child care stipends, priority registration, housing for families at some campuses
- IN WI – just 3 student parent programs – Madison, Marian University, UWM
 - We are quite unusually because we provide scholarships – not typical
 - Great resources all over campus – 2nd floor in library Children's and Young Adult Literature, Parenting books available for loan from WRC, Rec – offers swimming lessons for kids, sporting events, college for kids, planetarium etc.

Program Stats:

- What Is capacity – serve 40 students at a time
- Scholarship budget \$200k
- Every time someone graduates – a new scholarship is opened
- Funding from Jane Bradley Pettit and Great Lakes
- Recently awarded another \$400,000 from Jane Bradley Pettit foundation

Financial Aid – Satisfactory Academic Progress – SAP – Trisha Springstead and Courtney Morris

Students don't really know the rules until it negatively affects them.

- Two components
 - Time Frame/Pace
 - GPA consistent with graduation requirements of the school/college where the student is studying
- Maximum credits up to 150% of the number of credits they need to graduate
 - (120 credits needed – funding to 180 credits)
- Must complete 2/3 66.67% of all attempted credits satisfactorily
- 12 credits for fall – successfully complete 9 credit = 75% but is cumulative. Includes remedial credits

What credits are counted?

- Attempted credits are determined as of the census date – 10 days after start of classes
- ALL attempted courses will be included. (includes drops/withdrawals/transfer/study abroad)
- Many students are nearing the 180 credit mark – it is because of dropped courses and withdrawals after the census date

What happens when students don't meet SAP?

- Students are given warning status –
- Eligible for aid
- Have one semester to regain eligible pace
- Exceeded 180 or exceed 66.67%
- Can pay out of pocket to get back to pace
- OR do **appeal** – start appeal in Fin Aid office – evaluate what circumstances have caused them not to be successful – has to be non-academic
 - Students have to present the issue – and say how they have resolved it – need 3rd party documentation to support
 - Most students only need the appeal
 - Some will need to follow an academic plan
 - This is the **ONLY** way we can still provide financial aid due to federal regulations
 - Must get to 66.67% pace Or until the student graduates
 - Academic plan - **MUST** be followed exactly
 - Cannot go above the academic plan – if plan says 12 credits - can't do 15.
 - Fed Gov't says if we want to revise academic plan we will need a new explanation
 - Very situational for every student

- Double majors/minors and certificates are not appealable circumstances – Financial Aid is intended to complete one degree – appeal will not be approved. Academic plan will be for 1 major typically.
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- Timeline for Appeals
 - Have to be completed before the semester ends so they can still get the aid
 - Best to do at the beginning or middle of semester – ASAP!!!

Student withdrawal – have to give financial aid back – no chance to change policy because of all the federal and state regulations

Withdrawals can cause problems because they still count on PACE

Why Academic Standards?

- To students – seems punitive – financial aid is a stumbling block
- Pro-active early intervention to help student's success
- Forces students to address the issue
- Progress more quickly to graduation – saves them money
- Helps insure they graduate before funding limits are met.
 - PELL limited 12 semesters
 - Loans limited by age and maximum values
 - Students are out of loans in 5.5 years, Pell in 6 years and other aid in less time.
- Some students have academic plan through May 16 – but are out of eligibility for funding before then.
- Again - Double majors/minors and certificates are not appealable circumstances – Financial Aid is intended to complete one degree – appeal will not be approved. Academic plan will be for 1 major typically.
 - Can come back as second degree student to get other major etc.
 - Financial Aid is watching the academic plan and actual enrollment

More information on Appeals:

- 2nd degree can be problematic – but is appealable reason
- If no academic plan 2-3,000 students would not be able to get aid anymore. THANK YOU ADVISORS!
- Academic plans, financial aid will determine if needed – has form academic advisor must complete.
- If enrolled in WinterIM will count towards attempted and completed for PACE even if no aid.
- 2nd degree can be from same school as original degree.

- Advisor who is helping them to completion is the person who should complete the form (in case of change of major)
- **Please note:** Students do not need to take 12 credits to receive financial aid – 6 credits to be eligible for loans – lesser pell grant – but might be in student’s best interest to make a plan for less credits. Other factors may require the student to take 12 credits, so check into the issues.

If anyone is interested Financial Aid is creating a new appeals committee for students who have been on multiple academic plans – contact sprint@uwm.edu – they want more campus input!

Campus Community Reports

Enhancing advising Subcommittee: Jen Hayes, New chair

- Sent email to set up first meeting in January – may be rescheduled due to office moves
- Look at initiatives from previous year – and make new plan

Student Success Center – no announcement

Orientation Leadership Team – no announcement

Financial aid – see above 😊

Center for International Education – no announcement

LGBT Resource Center – no announcement

Women’s Resource Center – no updates

Registrar’s office – Brian Hinshaw

- Classroom scheduling has a draft of room assignments for a year out - but don’t share with students! Stop Sharing! Don’t share any draft schedule with students.
- Summer schedule should be out in January. (6th)

Accessibility Resource Center – no announcement

Panther Academic Support Services

- UWinteriM tutoring – in-person and online – available.
- Starting on Friday, January 3 – through full 2 weeks of winterim
- Also cards for Spring tutoring available

Office of Undergraduate Admissions – No Announcement

Announcements

Pathway to Success courses are available – Alejandra Carreno Lopez – Kristin Roosevelt – Courtney Morris encourage students to enroll in these sections!

- Open to students from other areas as well – transfer students sections are for transfer – but could be second semester if they are struggling. Encourage them to look at those sections!!
- In the works to have Student Parents course for spring semester.

Health Sciences – Joel Spiess

- New advisor from Roberto Hernandez Center – Gricelda Estrada

Exploring majors fair – February 12 – more details to come in January!

No January meeting! February 18 is the next meeting

Open Forums –with Phyllis King and Jeff Meece – An academic advising workgroup was formed with all the advising heads across campus. Phyllis asked for an ACN rep, and Laura Stark is serving on the workgroup

- had two meetings so far – Cattracks has been discussed – definitely interested in getting more info on advising notes system through PAWS
- getting consensus of 3 main things they hope to discuss
 - Compensation (salary study)
 - Communication
 - Consistency of experience in advising offices, consistency of advising hours etc.

Christine Wolf – nominations needed for ACN advising awards! Please contact Christine if any questions cawolf@uwm.edu