

ACN Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2013

Members present: J. Aigner, J. Anderson, T. Bandura, K. Barnes, S. Bednar, S. Byrne Irwin, Y. Castellano, C. Clark, S. Conway, A. Datey, J. DeRoche, T. Deutsch, K. Diener, K. Duce, K. Eilers, L. Fitzenberger, J. Ford, L. Fuller, K. George, J. Hack, J. Hayes, N. Heinen, B. Hinshaw, K. Huettl, J. Hutchings, S. Kaempfer, C. Kaye, K. Korinek, N. Krubsack, T. Latona, A. Lopez, A. Maldonado, E. Maldonado, K. Masshardt, N. McCoy, T. McGhee, I. McLaughlin, L. Molina, C. Morris, B. Mueller, L. Nicely, A. Northrup, D. Nothrup, E. Nytes, E. Rolland, J. Salzer, A. Schaffner, L. Stark, J. Stein, D. Unertl, D. Wallace, G. Wallander, B. Williams, C. Wolf, E. Cobb

54 total

Learning more about ALEKS – Kelly Kohlmetz

- Aleks website: www.aleks.com
- Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS) is a web-based artificially intelligent assessment and learning system
- Uses adaptive questioning to quickly and accurately determine what a student knows and doesn't know in a course. ALEKS instructs the student on the topics he/she is most ready to learn
- Features
 - Mastery of topics – always continually assessing the student on the whole course
 - Has past, present and future topics – asks questions from the beginning of the semester; students have to know everything from the whole course (many students not used to this and are not a fan of that piece)
 - It is not multiple choice questions, it uses flexible and easy to answer input tools and mimic what would be done with paper and pencil.
 - Students have to enter mathematical expressions
 - Tutorial side – explanations that are available to them 24/7
 - Works best on material that students have seen in previous courses – review rather than new material (best for Math 90, 95 and even 105)
- Different from other online programs
 - Uses artificial intelligence to target gaps in student knowledge
 - Provides cycle of assessment and learning – tested on the whole course
 - Assess and instructs with standards-based content
 - Remediate gaps in student preparation
 - Adapts to student needs with individualized instruction
 - Presents only topics the student is ready to learn
 - Provides clear explanations and feedback

- Online program – don't have to load software on their computer
- ALEKS Student Experience
 - Have to do a tutorial when they first purchase ALEKS of how to use the program
 - Initial Assessment – like a pre-test
 - ALEKS needs to know where they are starting from
 - Takes about 45 minutes
 - ALEKS assesses the student's current course knowledge by asking them a small number of questions – 20-30 questions
 - This means each student is at different topics
 - Only evaluates final answers (not work); artificial intelligence can actually figure out some of why the student made the error though
 - 210 topics for the Math 95 course – student can see how much they know already and how much they have left for each individual area – Pie Chart with percentages
 - Learning Mode
 - Students can choose topics to work on from any of the pie slices on the Pie Chart
 - In the Learning Mode there is an explain button to get an explanation of how to do a problem – so if a student can learn from reading rather than having someone explain it to them this program will work for the student
- Faculty Experience
 - Instructor can see which questions a student got right and wrong – they get a star if the question was something previously mastered
 - Can look at individual students or the whole class
 - Can see how long they logged on, what topics students are working on
 - Course summary – can see which students are ready to learn different topics
 - Can really tailor the course to what students need to hear
 - Scores – it isn't scores on a test, it is based on how far/what percentage of the course they have completed
 - Can see each day and amount of time they spend on ALEKS and what topics they are working on
- ALEKS is not for students who...
 - In general students who really struggle with Math are not best served by ALEKS but have better success with the personal interaction and accountability in a traditional face-to-face class
 - If a student doesn't have internet connection at home (spend less time since they only do it when they are on campus)
- ALEKS is for students who...
 - Enjoy working on the computer
 - Only need a review of the material

- Are motivated/committed to working
- Good time management skills
- Can learn by reading text
- Are not afraid to ask if they have questions, concerns or issues with the program or content
- Current ALEKS courses at UWM
 - Math 94
 - Math 95/105
 - Math 95 online
 - Math 105 online this spring (not all Math 105 sections use it – others use D2L)
- Currently in process of looking at the redesign of Math 95 and Math 105 courses
 - Could be used as online homework to supplement textbook for one or both courses (currently Math 95 uses ConnectMath and Math 105 uses MyMathLab)
 - Additional benefit: Details of initial assessment would provide information to determine whether students might be misplaced (too high or too low) so suggestions could be offered within first week of classes
- Fee for ALEKS – have to pay based on the amount of time – around \$70 for a semester length license; students don't purchase a textbook, just have to pay for this
- Combo courses have excellent pass rates – have to get at least a 92% on the first half of the course to move on. Online courses – anecdotally; students who put the time in do well
- Can put students in touch with Kelly if they mention an interest in using ALEKS
- For students in the online courses, if they have questions ask the instructor (Kelly & one other instructor), use tutoring – Kelly is working with PASS for online tutoring for the online Math – Net Tutor
- Grading for the class: Midterm; expected to be at 58%, if they are at 60% they get a 100%...the final exam is really the grade for the class (exam is tailored to the student)
- Website: www.aleks.com – have a free trial to test out
- Kelly Kohlmetz: kellyk2@uwm.edu if you have questions about ALEKS uses at UWM

Department of Recruitment and Admissions – Jan Ford, Kim Huettl & Alberto Maldonado

- Admissions numbers...down about 7% for new freshmen; admits are around .4%, there has been a lot of effort to help students complete applications...take placement testing...etc
- Transfer apps down but admits are up...but transfers are generally a later bunch
- Appreciate everyone's help in the process, refer students to: 229-2222. If staff have a question you can call: 229-4397
- Kim Huettl – in Department of Recruitment and Admissions
 - Supervising Visistor's Center in Vogel Hall, on campus recruitment events
 - Supervise Kate Steinbach who does tours

- July 2012-end of Feb. offered 323 scheduled tours; about 1,900 prospective students
- Usually about 200 special tours in addition to that (middle schools, high schools...etc.)
- Target X went on our tour experience and gave feedback/consulting meeting...gave some ideas for quick wins...
 - Panther Paw – have each student fill out their name and something memorable about themselves and post them in the visitors office to see everyone that has taken the tour
 - Have photos of tour guides going up the stairs to 2nd floor (women’s bathroom on 2nd floor)
- Target X will be coming back again
- Working to finalize Panther Preview Day – overnight dates will be coming soon for next year
 - April 10th and 11th – have Multicultural overnight visit
 - April 12th – preview day
 - April 14th and 15th and 21st and 22nd have two overnight preview days
- Alberto & Kim wanted to thank people for all of their hard work
- Want to try and have UWM at as many things in the community as possible to be recruiting students
- Recruiting goes beyond high school visits/fairs...go out and are trying to be creative in reaching out to these students. Would like to increase the opportunities to “admit students on the spot”...going into a high school and work with guidance counselors...out of 300 students, able to admit 52% on the spot...the other group were eligible to submit their application for second review (visited 9 schools). Looking to host an on-site admissions event on campus...want to be able to capture those students who are waiting until their 2nd semester senior to apply or decide where to go to college
- Trying to revive the info nights...invite admitted students – need to continue to work with them; piloting an event in Racine/Kenosha (will also invite those that have not applied yet)
- Diane Borton retired, Jason Kemp left for Gateway Technical College; Tawny Latona is now working non-traditional and special student population
- Virtual College Fairs – UWM hosted a number of them; have the 20th and 21st this week; for those that have helped with this you may have only talked with a few students but many students have visited our virtual college booth to get info or they have given us their info. Will plan to run a Talisma campaign to reconnect with these students from the virtual college fairs
- Student to student type of recruitment; students send a card and an UWM lanyard, the card directs them to the landing website – can enter a drawing. Recruiters hand these out and some go by mail as well

- E-mail address that was created last semester; a way for the office to capture events they get invited to and how many events they have attended. Honor about 90% of the events they are invited to. If they can't be there, their office can provide you with materials to have if you are at an event. Invite-uwm@uwm.edu (you can also contact Alberto if you have questions) Would like to have a little advanced notice for these....Admissions can identify if we should have a presence at the event
- Alberto welcomes alumni to come with for recruiting events – especially if you graduated from a local high school...take some current students with as well, so get in touch with him
- Jan plans to do some research on “stealth applications” – students who haven't done a visit or been in contact with us but just apply
- Have a number of calling campaigns going on
 - Project Connect – connecting with students who have toured or requested info but have not filled out application
 - Project Complete – reaching out to students who have applied but are missing application materials...gauge interest level
 - Project Welcome – student to student campaign; for those that have been admitted, it is really just a Welcome Call; started the campaign on Friday and have already made 500 calls....tracking these calls and hoping to find out the effectiveness

Let's Talk Program – Dr. JoAnne Graham from Norris Health Center

- Psychologist over at Norris Health Center – coordinator for the Let's Talk Program
- A program that was created at Cornell University – UW Madison is using it and now UWM is implementing it on our campus
- Have Let's Talk session in a few locations on campus: Sandberg, Bolton 196, CIE & the Union (open to adding/subtracting sites depending on the use)
- Set up to make counseling available for underrepresented students or students who are nervous about coming in for counseling
- Need help advertising about this program
- Just started the program about a month ago
- There is a Let's Talk website that has locations and times and has which therapist will be there – has their photo...not on the flyer because it could change
- Sign on the door for Let's Talk Program – if it gets busier will have sign-up for different times
- Consultations should be about 15-20 minutes
- Open to feedback – want to have it be user friendly and worthwhile, open to all ideas
- Taking first names only...only tracking how they found out about the program...type of problem...do give them info about in case of an emergency about taking notes/breaking confidentiality

- Idea – could present at classrooms (with freshmen) and orientations perhaps
- Would like our help advertising these to students so they are made use of

ACN Secretary Position Announcement – Laura Stark

- Now accepting nominations for ACN Secretary/Treasurer Position
- If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, send them to Kristin George (kageorge@uwm.edu) **by April 4th**
- Those interested should send a brief bio
 - Your role on campus
 - What office/area you work in
 - Why you are interested in being the Secretary
 - Any previous experiences that are relevant
- Timeline:
 - Send out link for voting around April 8th and announce the new Secretary at the April Meeting
 - New Secretary could shadow for the May meeting
- ACN Secretary/Treasurer duties:
 - Work with co-chairs on creating meeting agendas
 - Keep track of presentation requests for meetings
 - Take minutes at monthly ACN meetings
 - Send out meeting agenda and minutes
 - Update ACN List Serv and attendance lists
 - Send out e-mails through ACN List
 - Order ACN award plaque
 - Hold NACADA materials for checking out
- Contact Laura Stark if you have questions about the position (starkl@uwm.edu)

Math 94 Pilot for Fall 2013 – Dr. Shubhangi Stalder

- 2 sections being piloted – based on UW Colleges model – will be taught at UWM by Dr. Stalder
- This model will use ALEKS program and is a flipped course
 - Lectures are watched at home and homework is done in class
 - This allows students to have control of the lecture speed – students can rewind and pause the lecture as needed
- Working on having close captions for lecture, there is also a free book that can be downloaded
- Designed for those that have a fear of Math
- Exams are not timed – to remove pressure
- Redesigned content to see patterns and make connections

- Not an online course – oral exams, much more face time with instructor
- Any questions about the pilot contact Dr. Stalder: shubhangi.stalder@uwc.edu
- Class will be in computer lab here at UWM
- There is tutoring going to be available
- There will be a registration process...not sure of exact details yet but they will send out
- Will count as 6 credits towards fulltime status, but it is still a non-degree course

Campus Community Reports

- Student Success Center
 - Transfer and Adult Student orientations
 - 3 general: July 31st, August 22nd, & August 26th
 - Kay will send more firm times for the event but at least save those dates on your calendars
 - Reminder MAP Works Spring check-up survey will be open from March 23rd to April 14th
- Orientation
 - Placement testing has started this week
 - Invoices for new freshmen fee will go out next week
 - Invites to sign up for orientation go out in April
 - Testing overnight – have them contact Jessica to sign up
 - Phone calling: Students that have holds on their account (calling students that are freshmen that haven't registered for fall), those that haven't signed up orientation...if they haven't paid freshman fee, if they haven't done the housing contract...to follow up with them
 - Will be calling them pre orientation as a reminder and also post orientation to see if they had all of their questions answered
 - New freshman fee is \$235
 - Housing checklist is posted....everything listed as to do on PAWS
- Financial Aid – Courtney Morris
 - Now awarding students for 13-14....award letters going out via e-mail
 - Students will have to accept all forms of financial aid (not just loans as in the past)
 - Summer Aid: make sure they understand there may not be financial aid available
 - if they attended full-time for both semesters they generally won't have any left for summer

- Student Accessibility Center
 - Working on online testing scheduling and forms; hoping to have it piloted this summer and up and running this fall (will want to do a follow-up with ACN)

- PASS
 - Net Tutor Service – evening and weekend tutoring (available while office closed on spring break)
 - Hosting Wisconsin Learning Assistance Network Conference on April 26th
 - Johanna Dvorak will send out more info to ACN regarding this
 - Tutoring back next week

Announcements:

Kelly Diener – Athletics: Plan to deliver athletics certification forms Thursday/Friday of this week to advisors – wanted to be sure the transcripts match the courses listed since withdrawal date was Friday the 15th. Contact Kelly with any questions

Lynda Nicely from CDC – Shadow a Panther Week April 9th – 12th....still 11 different alumni that are available....education, social work, IT, engineering....for a half day
Mock Interview Day Information – Wed April 10th

Cathy Kaye – ESL Writing courses – new flyer; courses for non-native speakers of English. Reminders about taking the ESL Pic test. Looking at reading/writing scores for TOEFL and ACT to see if that can be indicators of what ESL course to get students registered earlier. Feel free to contact Cathy with questions.