

ACN Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2013

Members present: J. Anderson, K. Baker, K. Beisser, C. Breither, M. Buhrandt, J. Buschmann, A. Cardos Whaley, Y. Castellano, S. Conway, G. Cooper, C. Daly, A. Datey, K. Diener, J. Dorosz, J. Dvorak, K. Eilers, T. Hathaway, J. Hayes, N. Heinen, B. Hinshaw, S. Kaempfer, A. Kowaliczko, N. Krubsack, T. Latona, A. Maldonado, K. Masshardt, S. McCarthy, N. McCoy, I. McLaughlin, C. Parks, K. Powers, T. Rufer, R. Russell, A. Sadowsky, B. Simon, C. Simms, L. Stark, D. Wallace, C. Wolf

39 total

Introduction, Snapshot of Chinese Students on campus, and advising Chinese Students – Tim Hathaway

- See Powerpoint presentation sent by Laura Stark to ACN on November 20
- Tim's background – 1.5 years at UWM, prior to that 9 years in China in 3 cities working as an investigative journalist and English teacher
- Tim stressed he was speaking with broad brush strokes, there is much diversity in China and with Chinese students
- Chinese students are the biggest group of international students on campus – top fields of study are Business and Engineering – the national trend is the same
- Advising in China
 - No guidance counselors in HS - teachers correct behavior, may give advice on which universities to consider; Chinese HS is more demanding than college
 - There is no application for universities – just take Gaokao test for 3 days and pick top 5 universities and programs. Students are placed in university based on test results. – University name on diploma can be more important than major!
- University in China
 - No need for academic advising – study in cohort system groups of 40 typically set classes for a 4 year plan of study
 - Teachers do advising for jobs etc.
 - Any Advisors/Counselors in University Department are Communist Party affairs – they also handle “psychological” problems like roommate issues etc.
- Cultural Factor 1 - Finding Official University Info
 - In US – we expect to see it – there is a level of transparency
 - In China – no syllabus – don't understand how to navigate rigid rules
 - Major requirements – learning how to choose can be confusing for Chinese Ss
 - Housing policies – in US on website – in China – not on website
 - Official Info – in China it is hard to find, even if written policies – they are subject to change.

- Clear policies are difficult in a developing society
- Typical in China to talk to someone – particularly someone at the highest level. They may also seek multiple opinions.
- Cultural Factor 2 – Addressing Problems
 - In China Add/drop – not online, very difficult to do , must persuade people
 - In China – Change major – almost impossible to do – pick university by name and the name is more important than the major
 - Changing grades – in US – very difficult. In China – it happens – sometimes unethically – there is no transparency in the system
 - Cultural expectations – in China students learn to expect exceptions
 - Roommate issues – In US - RA is the gatekeeper for the problems - in China — students live with the same roommate for 4 years – it is extremely difficult to change. The residence hall is not viewed as a center of learning or vital to the university experience.
- Cultural Factor 3 – Millennials
 - China – stereotypes – 1 child (2 are ok in rural areas) spoiled – 1 child, 2 parents, 4 grandparents, “Tiger Mom” driving them, immature and sheltered
 - China – reality – diversity of experiences and backgrounds – wide spectrum of pressure and privilege – wide range of low income to wealthy – typically are much more sheltered than US students typically no jobs, minimal social interaction and very focused on education
 - Education is subsidized in China < \$1000 USD for tuition – housing virtually free and food very cheap – no washing machines or hot water in the dorms in China
 - In US – millennials are praised, comfortable with egalitarian leadership, civic minded, confident and motivated
 - In China – millennials are praised only for high achievement, at parent/teacher conferences parents of low achieving Ss are often berated, mix of confidence and insecurity, more sheltered, more pressured, unaccustomed to goal setting, group oriented – important to keep “Face”, prefer decisive leadership, more civic minded, trust Chinese government
- Factors in Advising UWM Chinese Students
 - They will rely on other Chinese students first – they will use social media (QQ) to ask questions
 - Language Barrier – they are shy about their English Skills – may not say they don’t understand. Don’t know the university terminology (“hold on your accounts” “bursar’s office” “drop a class”) A good plan is to ask them to repeat/recap what you said
 - Dynamics between child/parent – some Chinese families may have to scrape to get their children here

- Student may not have been able to choose his/her own major. May only have choice if in Grad school.
- Sometimes the student doesn't want to be overseas – but the opportunities were better in the US than in China.
- Face – family is bragging about student in US – if they fail it is very bad for them and their family
- Finding a Job – very important for Chinese Students – much competition in the job market – students need practical experience
 - Most plan to return to China after 1-3 years of experience
- Events for international students (including Chinese students)
 - Kevin Beisser in ISSS (International Student and Scholar Services)
 - How's it Going? Events – every two weeks – different topics about American life
 - ISSS is working with the First Year Center to add programming for international students
 - More plans are in the works
- Tim's contact info – hathawat@uwm.edu and extension 2476

Cultures and Communities Program – Rob Smith and Kate Powers

- Introductions – Rob Smith – Director – this is his first semester as Director – but has been at UWM for 4 years. He is a Professor of History and was co-director of Undergraduate Studies.
- Agenda: Reminders/updates, Ways they are Expanding and Questions
- Three things:
 - CUP – Community University Partnership
 - Person or group from campus works with community – can get a grant from the office
 - Service Learning –Multicultural America - course component typically in 150 classes in many disciplines – requires service learning
 - Certificate Program
 - ALL incoming students are encouraged
 - 15 credit certificate
 - ALL courses help students fulfill GER!
- When advisors have advising appointments with students, please encourage them to do the certificate program!
- Department is working with Social Work department to have certificate for all Social Work majors. We have also partnered with the Middle Childhood-Early Adolescence (SOE) and Community Art (PSOA) majors.
- If a program or department has questions, or would like to start a program contact Kate Powers by email cc-info@uwm.edu
 - Kate draws up a plan for the department so it is clear for advisors and students

- Kate draws up a policies/procedures document with the department
- Can work with CBLR to help students fulfill the requirements
- Global Studies students may be able to use their international internship towards this certificate.
- They will communicate with schools and colleges individually

Academic Opportunity Center – John Dorosz and Karen Baker

- Please see Powerpoint emailed from Laura Stark to ACN on November 22, 2013
- John Dorosz – Assistant Director of Advising and Admissions, Dr. Karen Baker is Assistant Director for Instruction
- Location – Main office Mitchell Hall 173, Advising MIT 177, Instruction MIT 165
- Mission: Help students who need extra support to be successful in college
 - How are they doing this?
 - Admission – considering students/secondary review
 - Advising – Intensive “in your face” advising
 - Instruction – Intro level courses for college success
 - Smaller classes
 - Smaller advising load in collaboration with other schools
 - Develop transitional courses
- Student Support Services is now part of AOC
- Monitor student’s progress during first 24 credits
- Some courses taught and housed in AOC
 - Math 90
 - Ed Psy 100 – Study Skills
 - Ed Psy 101 – Academic probation students get back on track
- Sections of other courses taught through English and Math departments
 - AOC only sections for Math 95, English 95, 101 and 102
 - Smaller course size
 - AOC instructors likely to teach the section
- Academic Unit – reports to the provost – helps students transition to college
- Bridge program – select students who need extra support
 - Tentative dates for 2014 = July 7 – August 6
 - Student will move in July 7
 - NSO scheduled for July 7th and 8th per UWM Campus Summer bridge meeting minutes October 7, 2013
 - Curricular pilots will be taught this summer
 - Many non-native speakers (make big improvements in the summer)
 - They will continue in ESL
 - English/Study Skills/Math
- Students will transfer out of AOC to other schools/colleges

- 10% of AOC students make the Dean's list
- Students sometimes feel "less than," but AOC works hard to provide extra support and reassurance so no one know their status unless they disclose it.
- Question – when do students transfer to school/college?
 - Can be as quick as 1 semester!
 - Depends on English/Math proficiency, GPA and department regulations
 - Most students stay 1 year, rarely 1.5 years or longer
 - Many AOC students may be exploring their options or undeclared
- Question – (advisor in ASL) Is there any way to better communicate or get better advising?
 - AOC students don't automatically get a secondary advisor unless they have requested one
 - AOC students could be placed with generalist who doesn't know the details of a specific major
 - Students should make sure they get connected to the right secondary advisor
- Cultural Specific Student Services are found in Bolton Hall
- They hold monthly meetings with AOC
- AOC reminds each student to see their advisor in their school/college of their intended major
- No AOC students are international
- To be an AOC student, student must be admitted to AOC at UWM. Other students COULD be in an AOC course if needed

Campus Community Reports

- Student Success Center
 - TASO – January 14, NSO January 16
 - Housing fees are due – must be paid before orientation
 - Wednesday, December 11 - Orientation
 - Hiring for Campus Ambassadors!! Visit www.campus-ambassador.uwm.edu
- Financial Aid
 - No updates
- Center for International Education
 - No updates
- LGBT Resource Center
 - Transgender Day remembrance was held November 19 and 20 in the Union Concourse
 - Lavendar Graduation is May 15th, any December Grads should contact Cameron Breither at peerout@uwm.edu
- Women's Resource Center (WRC)
 - Alternating Wednesdays – Sister Talk Bolton 196 1pm – 3pm

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- Coffee Talk – First Friday of the month in the WRC
 - Geared to Graduate students
 - Encourage UG too
- 2nd Friday of the month Student Parents meeting at WRC 12pm – 1:30pm
 - Focus on Grads but UG welcome too
- Students of Concern met November 26 from 9am – 10:30am in Sandburg Flicks
 - Info was sent out through Staff Development
 - Dean of Students was there to talk about how they help the students you are concerned about.
- Registrar’s Office - Brian Hinshaw
 - Spring Registration has started
 - Math – system is checking pre-requisites for Math 103 and 105
 - FLEX – now accepting applications
- ARC – no updates
- PASS
 - Winterim Tutoring mostly in person for in-person courses
 - Some on call for on-line help
 - January 2 through January 17 – 3 hours/day or by appointment
 - Final Exam review sessions
 - Cards for tutoring for Spring
 - Notes – schedule for Spring if tutoring available
- Office of Undergraduate Admissions “Admissions”
 - Black and Gold Friday
 - Drawing to win \$500 tuition reimbursement
 - Discounts at the Book Store on Black and Gold Fridays
 - New Viewbook for Adult Students
 - Throw out any old ones
 - Contact the office to get new books

Announcements

- Christine Wolf - ACN Awards Committee
 - Changes to nominations
 - More efficient processing
 - More User friendly
 - Mostly online
 - Check email reminder from Christine!