

ACN Meeting

April 15, 2014

Members present: T. Badura, K. Baker, K. Barnes, S. Bednar, C. Breither, J. Broskowski, C. Calhoun, M. Camacho, N. Claas, C. Clark, S. Conway, G. Cooper, T. Current, T. Danner, A. Datey, T. DePratt, G. Dorantes, J. Dvorak, K. Eilers, M. Fero, K. George, J. Hayes, B. Hinshaw, M. Knasinski, A. Lopez, N. McCoy, T. McGhee, I. McLaughlin, L. Molina, P. Muas-Xiong, R. Olsen, C. Parks, C. Piercy, V. Pryor, K. Roosevelt, T. Rufer, W. Scherer, P. Schoessling, G. Schuttey, B. Simon, C. Simms, J. Spiess, L. Stark, J. Stein, D. Stewart, S. Terry, J. Thomson, D. Vankerkvoorde, C. Wolf

Total Attendees: 49

There is still **space available for speakers for the May ACN meeting!** Contact Kristin George (kageorge@uwm.edu), Yomarie Castellano (yomarie@uwm.edu) or Sue Conway (conways@uwm.edu) if you are interested in presenting.

Call for elections!

ACN is seeking new Co-Chairs for ACN (2), and an Awards Committee member! Please contact Kristin George or Yomarie Castellano if you want to be considered!

Waking up with Academic Plans – Don't hit the snooze button on this one! – Jamie Thomson and Casey Calhoun

Focus on academic plans – policy – and implications

SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress) – UWM and federal regulations requires that students are using funds properly and making progress towards a degree

Goals

- Early intervention
- Minimizing debt
- Ensure graduation before funds exhausted

Statistics

- Debt increased up 9.5% from WI public schools

Aid Availability

- Pell grant – eligible for 6 years (12 semesters)
- Loans – maximums \$31,000 for dependent students, independent students \$57,500

- 150% rule – students can only receive subsidized loans for 180 credits – all unsubsidized after!
New policy starts July 1

The policy regarding 180 credits to get degree – includes second degree students. Any credits that count towards degree will count towards the 180 – but sometimes students will have an appealable reason to waive the credits and get access to more aid.

PACE – used to be a problem, but now is not as big of an issue – students seem to understand, completed credits vs. attempted credits

- Note: Attempted credits – count as of the 10th day of class – students need to drop quickly if they don't want credits counted toward their attempted!
- Transfer credits, remedial, repeated, incomplete, drops/withdrawals, consortium credits and more – all count towards attempted.
- Deadlines – even though drop deadline is ahead – may still count towards pace

Students may not realize, debt goes from one institution to another

If students have concern - they may appeal! **Process:**

- Meet with financial aid advisor (preferred in person)
- Must have non-academic reason
 - outside force causing them to not do well academically
 - Examples: Work, Medical issues, Military service, Death in the family, Transfer/major change
 - Other circumstances beyond their control
 - *Financial Aid must have documentation for auditors if they inspect
 - **Not liking a professor is not a good reason!
- **Student **must** demonstrate issue has been resolved, and will no longer interfere with coursework.

Academic Plan:

- If student can't get back on track in 1 semester – Academic Plan (time frame or pace)
 - Need to meet with academic advisor
 - Put details on academic plan form so they can finish in a timely manner
 - Financial Aid wants students to be responsible for knowing the number of credits
- Must enroll in exact number of credits – must be enrolled properly or aid will not disburse. If any irregularities must meet with financial aid to appeal again.
- If Summer or UWinteriM is not on the plan – they will not be able to use financial aid if they enroll in these terms.
- Even if paying out of pocket – cannot enroll in term that is not approved on plan without a separate appeal and a new plan.

- If there is a reason for students to take a course in a different term Financial Aid will usually need an email from the Academic Advisor to confirm they need the new requirement or change.
- Financial Aid can create something for Academic Advisor to use as a guide for this requirement.
- **Have to abide by academic plan – it's a contract – no negotiating.**

Other notes:

- CAN receive aid for 2nd degree, countdown is different! (only loans)
- There are NO timeframe appeals for double major
- If issue of academic performance is related to work – student may be approved for less than full-time study.
- Add/Drop implications – financial aid may send students to Academic Advisor
- If student withdraws – students may need to pay financial aid back. (Pell grants in particular – loans don't need to be paid back – see financial aid for all the details)
- If student has all F0 grades – student will have to pay back aid, but the process is slow. Last semester had about 70 students in this category.

Process:

1 warning semester – 2nd semester fine due to warning – 3rd semester become ineligible for financial aid if failing. ** If they are above 66.67% PACE - it will not be caught – but it will catch up with them, and have implications long term on finishing their program and credit totals.

Timeframe Issues:

Emails go out if students are reaching 180 credits – PACE does not currently have email system.

Special policies:

If students have 3rd retake of a course – if not successful – will not get aid for that class at least.

Ultimate goal: a clear path to graduation

Pathways to Success – Teresa DePratt

Department of Educational Psychology – Pathways to Success course

- Has been listed as 101 in the past
- Changed to 104 (2014-15 school year)
- Planning your major and/or career is also changed – course 110

Department did a lot of research about retention and incorporated top 5 themes into course
This is a Fantastic class for freshman, probation students - anyone!

Some components of the course:

- Learning how to be a college student
- Organizations – get involved
- Cultural Organizations
- Study skills
- Connecting with advisors
- How UWM is organized
- Financial Aid
- Scavenger hunt on campus
- And more!

7 course options specifically geared to types of students – undecided, business, probation, adult, veterans etc.

Previous Student feedback – think class should be required for all students.

There is more than one instructor in the sections - Have mentors in the classroom as well!

Department will be tabling at New Student Orientation – they are looking at ways to reach out to parents too.

Still recruiting for co-instructors - contact Teresa or Alejandra Lopez!

Exploring Majors Fair debrief – Joel Spiess, Alejandra Lopez and Dorrie Van Kerkvoorde

2nd Annual Event Was February 12, 2014 from 11am – 4pm in the Union Ballroom

Planning committee Joel, Ale, Dorrie and Lauren Lessac

Helpful outcomes

- Introduce students to plethora of majors, minors and certificates (all welcome – but focus on undecided!)
- Help students learn how to connect with advisors and declare major
- Impact student retention
- Reinforce Pride message

Exhaustive marketing

- Feedback from last year – staff felt they didn't know about the event
- Focus last year was in student centric areas

- This year much was the same – but reached a bit more in academic buildings

Statistics:

- About 274 attended this year – 45% freshmen, 25% sophomores, 13
- Feedback – 60% completed exit survey – 90% felt the event was helpful in confirming or exploring academic options

Positive feedback

- Staff and students liked the month of the event – good timing advisors were able to participate because it is quieter time of year
- Student advisors – made more connections – on the spot advising
- ID scanners for check in worked well – easy
- On the spot survey – computers to fill out.
- Improved atmosphere – union felt more warm and welcoming – decorations / welcoming

Future considerations:

- Reevaluating day/time/location to increase student participation
- Perhaps shorten the event
- Perhaps change to Union concourse
- Connect with first year courses
- Having students on planning committee – program ambassadors
- Perhaps create promotional videos
- More interactive booths – tvs, videos etc.
- Divide tables by majors instead of school/college/department – get more Faculty involved. (transition with care!)

2015 fair – stay tuned!

- Working with Career Development to possibly create a specific home – connections to careers – but keeping focus on majors.

GRE Preparation – Terry Axe (ETS) taxe@ets.org

Introduction, her role is to work with different states and provide information to colleges and universities about the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and GRE

GRE – packet

- GRE guide to use of scores – the GRE bible – concordance table from old scores etc...
- New scoring 130-170 in 1 point increments
- Percentile rank tables
- Snapshot of test takers (took revised test from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 – about 534,000 students)

GRE Search Service

- Website www.ets.org/gre has GRE search service – use recruiting budget to target potential students around the world
- Cost effective way – 30 criteria available to search
- Webinars for using the search service – helping you find the best fit for UWM

GRE has a Facebook page with about 300,000 followers. We can put our events on their Facebook page – contact gretests@ets.org and copy Terry to make sure events are posted.

Resources for Test Takers:

- Test prep materials
 - Free software – 2 full length GRE tests – can be downloaded from the GRE website
- Math review resource
 - Available for purchase: series of videos for students
- Official Guide to the GRE Test (Guide is currently available at a discount for \$24.50) a copy will be given away at the GRE student presentation being held tonight (April 15) at 5:30 pm in the Ballroom at the Student Union
- Guide also available as a mobile application from the Apple store
- Terry will get us an edition of the Prep book which will be available in the library

Resources for those who work with juniors and seniors (potential GRE test takers):

Advisor kit

- Free of charge – flyers, and other materials
- Want students to look at it – and realize GRE can open a lot of doors for school choices
- Test is Good for business and graduate schools

Educate series

- Webinars – free for advisors
- Sign up for updates on GRE website

ETS Personal Potential Index (ETS PPI)

- **What is it?**
 - People you know evaluate you
 - Provides Broader feedback for admissions/recruitment
- ETS PPI works – 4 free of charge with GRE or can do separately for \$20
- Evaluates factors affecting retention
- 6 areas
 - Knowledge and creativity
 - Teamwork
 - Planning and organization
 - Communication skills

- Resilience
- Ethics and integrity

Terry's Contact information is available on the Powerpoint

Questions:

When should students take the GRE? Answer: most tend to take it as late as possible. It is best to take it the second semester of junior year – see how you do – gives plenty of time to retest if needed. Fall testing period is the busiest. Register as early as possible to plan your studies.

Notes/Changes:

Advantages of GRE for students:

- GRE has score select – student can choose which scores to send to universities – can send 4 free universities for each test taken; because of score select, you don't have to send the other scores.
 - GRE Score select is only for total exam – not by section for multiple tests
- No longer have to answer the questions in the order they come – skip and come back – only credit for correct answers.
- Calculator available for quantitative section – more interested in reasoning than calculation.

Testing Details/Rules:

- COST: \$195 to take exam.
 - No discount for retest
 - Can take GRE up to 5 x a year – 21 days between each administration. (don't plan on this!! Study to improve areas of weakness rather than retaking the test multiple times)
- Scores are good for 5 years.
- Test details
 - Analytical writing – first – (suggestion – write down things that come to you right away not marked down for spelling/grammar unless unintelligible)
 - 2 verbal sections: approximately 10 passages and questions – don't read in advance – you can mark questions to go back; fill in the blank; sentence equivalence
 - 2 quantitative sections: high school math; real life scenarios; data analysis; numeric entry; on screen calculator available
 - Sections can come in any order
 - 10 minute break after third section
 - There is still a research section; test takers will receive either a Research or Unscored section – will not know if unscored and can be in any order, but research section will be identified and is always the last section
 - **Test Time: About 3 hours 45 minutes**
- **Score availability:**
 - 10 – 15 days for scores to be available - students shouldn't cut it to the last minute.

- UWM gets results 2 x a week – get loaded right to PAWS

Terry recommends all students do Power Prep (2 tests) – become familiar with the test; see where you are – prepare – then take exam. If not as successful the first time out – get official guide do more preparation.

Campus Community Reports

Enhancing Advising Subcommittee – Jen Hayes - Thank you for responding and providing feedback on the advising brochures. The committee will try to get you all the quantity you ordered. The committee is still working on how to address probation, and will be working with a Campus Advising Working Group subcommittee focused on “consistency of student experience.”

Student Success Center – Kay Eilers – Orientation update – NSO TASO registration database is open – The first TASO is May 5. More information for Advisors and Orientation Leaders will be coming soon!

Center for International Education (CIE) Deadline for UWinteriM Study Abroad Program proposals was April 15. If anyone in your department is planning to lead a program, and hasn't turned in their proposal, please have them contact Mark Eckman, Director, CIE Study Abroad at eckmanm@uwm.edu

LGBT Resource Center Cameron Breither – Wednesday May 14th Lavender Graduation at 7pm, we encourage students to walk for Lavendar Graduation for its 5th year! All of ACN is welcome to attend We're also encouraging folks to nominate students or faculty/staff for awards! All of the Lavender Graduation information can be found at <https://dev.sa.uwm.edu/lgbtrc/event/5th-annual-lavender-graduation-2/>

Registrar's Office – Brian Hinshaw - Fall registration is in swing – seniors were able to start registering Tuesday, April 15. Also, Thursday April 17, there is a book sale in Bolton breezeway!

Panther Academic Support Service (PASS) – Jonnie Dvorak

- 2 quick announcements
 - Final exam tutoring schedule will be out soon
 - A lot of tutors graduating – they are looking to hire for fall
- The National College Learning Center Association (NCLCA) will be holding a 2 1/2-day Institute at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee from June 16-18. The theme is "How We Think and How We Learn: the Theory and Practice of Metacognition." Information and registration is at www.nclca.org and click on "Institute."
 - The registration cost, not including the hotel, is \$675 for members, \$775 for non-members.

Announcements

Nicole McCoy from Athletics – Athlete Certification Forms are due now. Thank you to everyone who did them so quickly. If you still have them and they are ready – please email or call and athletics will pick them up!

Warren Scherer from the Inclusive Excellence Center – Educational Psychology is offering a new course in the fall term called Cross Cultural Conversations. They are actively trying to recruit for the course and encourage all advisors to take flyer and share with their students and other staff members! If you have questions, please contact Warren.

Gabriela Dorantes from the Roberto Hernandez Center – Please notify any Latino students, particularly if they are not advised through the Roberto Hernandez Center, there will be a Latino Graduation banquet on May 3. The dress code for this event is officially “business/business casual”. Graduates usually wear a knee length dress or slacks and a tie. It is free for students and \$12 for guests. Please contact Gabriela at dorantes@uwm.edu if you have any questions

Sarah Terry from MAVRC – On May 15 – MAVRC will hold an event "Military and Veterans Academic Recognition Ceremony," at 7pm in the Student Union Wisconsin room. The ceremony will include speakers, awards, and recognition of soon to be graduates (including distribution of military and veterans graduation cords) as well as a social mixer with snacks (nacho bar and chocolate fountain) and a cash bar. This is for all veteran students – not just graduating seniors! Students interested in attending can email Sarah directly at tarah@uwm.edu or they can stop by MAVRC (WG99) or call MAVRC at (414)229-7211

Kristin George from the Career Development Center – THANKS! We called for volunteers for UWM’s Just in Time Job Fair on May 1 and we have received all the volunteers we need! Please encourage your students to attend the event. It is a great way for students to find jobs!