

Advisors and Counselors Network Meeting Minutes for April 12th, 2023

Welcome

Meeting recording: https://panthers-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/tarah_uwm_edu/ESq37BWygOIDIAhl08UtA9kBVwAgbq8a8mwwTXiviqgv-w

First-Year Bridge Program Presented by Angie Izard: Angie began with an introduction of herself and the First-Year Bridge program noting that the program supports incoming students who do not fully meet UWM's admissions requirements around high school GPA (2.0-2.5) and/or English and/or Math performance. (She also noted that this is different from the CGS program for Engineering). Angie noted that the program is a one-year program, and that in most cases, at the end of the first year, students are supported through transferring into their preferred majors (though some will wait to move until the second year). Angie said that early in the program, students are informed of the entrance requirements for their preferred major, and that if they are not able to meet those requirements, the student receives information about alternative program options.

Angie talked about the benefits of the program which currently includes 83 students. She noted that the program advisors have small caseloads so that they can offer more hands-on and intensive advising. Angie also talked about the Math and writing support that is provided. She also mentioned that students take a career exploration course as part of the program experience. Angie also mentioned that Bridge program courses are offered at a reduced tuition rate, and that those courses do transfer to UWM academic programs. Angie also noted that the students come from diverse backgrounds and that most of the students come from parts of the Midwest.

Angie noted that most First-Year Bridge students are very excited to move into academic programs as soon as possible, despite the tuition cost differences between Bridge program courses and standard UWM undergraduate courses. Angie also provided a detailed overview of the English and Math courses that are part of the First-Year Bridge program including the additional support courses that pair up with the UWM's required English and Math courses. (Please see PowerPoint on the ACN website for details). Angie also noted that the program is currently focusing on fine tuning the process for students to transfer into their preferred majors. Angie let ACN members know that we can contact her with questions at adizard@uwm.edu.

Accessibility Resource Center Presented by Mallory Frank and Melanie Pare: Mallory and Melanie introduced themselves and the Accessibility Resource Center noting that the center focuses on providing equal access for students with disabilities through offering accommodations, supports, and through serving as a resource for the campus community overall. They also provided a definition of disability which noted having a physical or mental impairment that could interfere with the ability to participate in day-to-day life activities. They also provided national and UWM specific data on students with disabilities. (See PowerPoint on ACN website for specific details). They covered federal laws relating to disability related discrimination and requirements for providing accommodations. They also noted that the purpose of offering accommodations is to remove barriers for students with disabilities so they can fully participate in college, especially since students' performance should be based on what they learn rather than focusing on the limitations that stem from having a disability.

Mallory and Melanie provided information about how students can apply for accommodations on the ARC website. They reviewed the accommodations process including getting and submitting documentation of the disability and making a plan for what accommodations would be helpful and appropriate. They also noted that the ARC has an on-call specialist who can assist students who stop by the office with questions or concerns about accessibility and accommodations.

Mallory and Melanie also provided an overview of commonly utilized accommodations and services such as academic flexibility, alternative formats, assistive technology, communication access, notetaking services, and testing. They talked about how students receiving accommodations for individual classes use the ARConnect accommodations management system to send a notification to instructors about their plan to use accommodations. Students are also encouraged to speak directly with instructors about this. They also talked about how building an inclusive campus is a shared responsibility, and that our campus(as a whole) needs to work together to provide this. They mentioned that instructors can view and manage student accommodations related information through PROFconnect at uwm.edu/arc/profconnect . They also shared websites with information about instructional resources for instructors (uwm.edu/accessibility-training and uwm.edu/cetl/universal-design-checklist-for-instructors). Through the virtual Microsoft Teams chat, Shannon Aylesworth noted that if students have a concern about whether their accommodations are being provided properly, they can use this form to report their concern to the ARC: <https://uwm.edu/arc/accommodation-related-complaint-or-concern/> Mallory and Melanie noted that if ACN members have questions about the Accessibility Resource Center, they can reach out to the ARC at archelp@uwm.edu , 414-229-6287, or Mitchell Hall 115.

Fostering Success Program Presented by Tawney Latona: Tawney began by introducing herself and the UW System Fostering Success Program. She noted that Wisconsin has approximately 7,000 children in foster care, and she provided statistics looking at how 79-80% of children in foster care aspire to earn a college degree but less than 3% graduate from college (See PowerPoint presentation of the ACN website for more specific information). Tawney also provided information about the history of the UW Fostering Success program including UWM's program which began in 2017 and is now receiving funding beginning in Fall 2022.

Tawney provided general background information about the youth in foster care that our UWM Fostering Success Program serves including youth in kinship, guardianship, or ward of the courts, youth with incarcerated parents, orphans, and unaccompanied homeless youth. Tawney reported that the UWM's Fostering Success program is currently working with 62 prospective students. She noted that the program includes monthly meetings with the students, and the goal for the 2023-2024 academic year is to bring in 40 new students to UWM. She also reported this year, we have 112 current students from the program enrolled here at UWM, and 20 will be graduating soon. Tawney said the current students receive bi-weekly academic and life coaching sessions.

Tawney also shared community resources that can be helpful for all low-income students. Examples of resources include FoodShare, BadgerCare, tax assistance, LifeLine cell phone products/services, the Affordable Connectivity Program (internet), and the 211 Wisconsin social services resource. She also mentioned a number of special projects that address the needs for scholarships, social support, healthcare needs, transportation, books, personal, home supplies, and educational support. Tawney also noted different ways that ACN members can help support the program including referring students,

donations through the 414 campaign (give.uwm.edu/fosteringsuccess), serving as a scholarship mentor, donating items to the Amazon Wish List ([uwm.edu/fostering success](https://uwm.edu/fostering-success)), and volunteering to make baked good for mid-term care packages. Tawney encouraged ACN members to contact her with any questions at tawney@uwm.edu, 414-229-4624, in Mitchell Hall 163.

Campus and Community Announcements:

Class it Up! (Fall Enrollment Party) Update by Brian Hinshaw- Brian confirmed that the Class it Up! Fall Enrollment Party will be held on Wednesday, May 3rd between 10 to 3pm in the Union Ballroom East. This event will provide students with Fall enrollment support such as finishing enrollment steps for Fall, addressing enrollment holds, and/or helping students with setting up advising appointments if needed. The event will include music and snacks. Advising offices and various student support offices will be present to help throughout the day. Posters, flyers, and stickers will be available soon, and they will be shared across campus to help support the event.

S&E Update by Katie Knack- Katie reported that emails will go out soon highlighting opportunities for Advisors and Coaches to use S&E funds towards polo shirts or courses offered through the UWM School of Continuing Education. Deadlines for making purchases will be coming up soon, so watch for communications

PALM Gala 2023 Update from Gabby Dorantes and Alberto Maldonado- Gabby (in-person) and Alberto (online) shared information about the upcoming annual PALM Gala Graduation and Fundraiser event. It will be held on Saturday May 6th from 5:30pm until 9pm in the UWM Wisconsin Room. Tickets for this fundraising event cost \$100. For more information, visit this website: <https://uwm.edu/robertohernandezcenter/palm/>

WCPA PDI Update from Hillary Marne Vara- Do not forget to register for the WCPA PDI next week! We have some great presentations that are centered around **Disability on Campus: Advocating for Accessibility!** <https://456972197.planningpod.com/> **Ticket:** UW-Milwaukee - Group Registration **Password:** Panthers1956 Hope to see you there!