

Academic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes January 30, 2018

Present: Greg Young, Sarah Ash, Angela Smith, PK Lim, David Auerbach, Sid Thakur, Darby Orcutt

Absent: Neal Parker, Mary Beth Hawkins, Sophia Kathariou, Helmut Hergeth, Deniz Eseryel, Robert Hayes

Guests: Bret Smith, DASA; Louis Hunt, Brittany Mastrangelo, and Charles Clift, Enrollment Management; Krista Ringler, Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

Topic: Priority registration and “F” grades

Priority registration

Problem:

There is a significant number of students who get to register before everyone else, including seniors. This includes most of the scholarship programs (who use it as a perk), and athletes and students registered with DSO, both of whom may have specific needs regarding time/location/method of delivery of classes.

This may make it hard for other students, especially seniors, to get into the classes that they need. Some complaints have come from faculty whose classes fill up quickly (and then have to field calls from unhappy students) while others have come from the students themselves (though it’s unclear whether it’s a class they want v. a class that they need). The actual extent of the problem is not known. R and R does restrict the total number of athletes who can register for any given class.

Potential solutions:

Can’t take away or modify the perk that exists (e.g., by changing registration to first day of their class cohort v. the first day of registration); R and R has tried that before and got significant pushback from the scholarship programs.

- R and R will look into gathering data on course enrollment rates and then ask who’s registering to get some baseline information.
- Depending on what is found, could educate faculty regarding the ability to set aside seats for specific groups of students if there are those that are routinely disadvantaged.
- R and R will also look into moving seniors into super priority category. They will have to spread it out over 4 days to accommodate all the seniors (currently have 3 days for them).

“F” Grades

Problem:

If a student on a Pell grant fails one (or more classes), taking them below the enrollment status on which their grant was based, they have to pay back that fraction of the grant unless they can

verify that they participated in the course (even if they only went once—the bar is low). Currently however there is no way to know if the “F” recorded by the instructor was earned because not all faculty also use the FNA and FQA options (never attended and quit attending, respectively). As a result, Financial Aid has to work with students to get that information from faculty, which is both inefficient and time-consuming.

A similar problem occurs for those students on financial aid who fail to pass any class in a given semester. They will have pay back at least a portion of the federal and/or state aid unless they can verify that they attended/participated for at least 60% of the semester.

Solution:

R and R will look into changing the “F” option to something like “FE” for “earned” and provide a pop-up window to explain the differences among the 3 options. Memos will go out ahead of the change alerting faculty to it, along with an explanation as to why it is being done,