

Minutes of the Student Academic Development and Achievement Committee
October 25, 2012

Attending: Sandra Wildfeuer, David Maxwell, Andrea Schmidt, Cindy Hardy, Dana Greci, Sarah Stanley, Gabrielle Russell, John Creed.

Visiting: Will Updegrove, Jennifer Tillbury, Desiree Simons, Provost Susan Henrichs

After a brief check-in on the Learning Commons, the Brown Bag subcommittee, ERC, and Accuplacer Alignment, the bulk of the meeting was devoted to a conversation with Provost Henrichs about President Garcon's vision for the future of the university.

the BOR and Gamble are discussing making Gen. Ed. requirements uniform across the UA system, such as with uniform course numbers. This will make the GERC process take longer.

--We noted the recent Accuplacer English Alignment Community of Practice meeting in which all three MAUs agreed to adopt a new set of standard cut scores for ENGL 111X and DEVE classes.

--We discussed how to implement Accelerated Learning classes.

We raised the question of classroom space if we try to run classes on the accelerated learning model in the fall. The way Baltimore does this is to hold classes in a computer classroom or lab. They also use longer periods of instruction. SH noted that once we get out of the standard class hour in scheduling, it impacts other classes. This is easier to do if it's not on a ~~day~~ ^{single} day. She suggested that the registrar may be OK with nontraditional blocks if they are notified by fall.

We noted that students want to take classes during the day, and asked if there is a building where we can create a computer writing lab. SH suggested laptop carts. We noted that CTC has computer classrooms.

SH: Gamble doesn't speak to that. We need ~~wide~~ opportunities for ~~not~~traditional students; people without HS diplomas can come to UA and will need DevEd in the future. We want to offer them the best form of DevEd that we can.

She agreed that it's common for students to take DEVM 105 instead of freshman math and that it's common for students to enter UAF after a break having forgotten math.

--We asked about funding or grants to support changes in Dev Ed.

SH: We need to look at things that won't cost more money. Gamble wants to spend less money, not more. However, she noted that no administrator is opposed to grant funding. If we identify sources of funding, she can target grant writers to develop proposals. We encouraged her to think about funding DevEd as an investment in students. SH ~~agreed~~ stated that there is support for a model that's dramatically effective and small in cost.

--We noted that the President wants to put less money into DevEd, but our data shows that students are doing well with DevEd. Is reducing funds going to take away opportunities for students?

SH: He's expressed what he wants, but the MAUs develop their own budgets. She noted that he can be persuaded by evidence, not verbal arguments. Her goals are:

Trying some experiments,

Telling Gamble that we are responding ~~to~~ "taking his message to heart,"

Developing an answer to his question of what's the best way to do Developmental Ed.

Other business: We concluded the meeting by touching base on some SADA business:

How to get advisor contacts for students listed on UA ~~Ac~~ ^{Acad}li

The suggestion that we invite Alex Fitts to a later meeting,

An update on the Learning Commons meeting with the Library dean, and a need to review our original proposal and make a new one to the Library,

An agreement to list SADA as a sponsor on ~~the~~ upcoming Wounded Warrior Brown Bag,

A heads up on the Accuplacer Alignment recommended DEVE/ENGL placement changes,

An update on the GERC committee.

We will take most of these up at our next meeting, November 15.