Welcome & Announcements

Lynne welcomed everyone to the January Advisors’ Council meeting. Today we are joined by two new academic advisors, Megan Andrews, academic advisor in KGCOE, and Karen Hirst, academic advisor in GCCIS. Please welcome Megan and Karen to Advisors’ Council!

Advisor Feedback: Student Success Benchmarking

(Please refer to “Benchmarking Student Success Initiatives AC 01.18.22″ presentation)

- About a year ago, Katie was asked to review an article that highlighted two universities’ increase in student and graduation rates. Katie contacted constituents at the institutions to learn more about the steps that were taken to increase undergraduate retention (a 6% increase in retention at one institution and 18% increase at the second institution).
  - Both universities are 4 year, large, majority-undergraduate, R1 private institutions located in the northeast.
- Some initiatives that the two universities pursued included:
  - Streamlined Academic Planning & Culture: Streamlined change of major processes, added major exploration course options, enlisted a culture shift, etc.
  - Multilayered Student Outreach: With communication from campus and college leadership, implemented non-registered outreach, completion outreach, drop in GPA outreach, exit interviews, transcript request outreach.
  - Increased Data Sharing & Use in Colleges: Analysis and distribution of student success data to colleges at multiple levels, identification of retention trends (both universities said these changes made an impact with retention).
  - Amplified Financial Commitment to Students: Instituting emergency loan funds, food insecurity funds, campus upgrades for community building, efforts to decrease the student need gap.
  - Renewed Focus & Resources Allocated to Improve the Student Experience: Focused on sense of belonging, larger spaces for affinity groups and special populations, opportunities for students to speak with leadership, transparency on campus issues. At one university, students requested a “smoothie bar” that was added, and goes hand-in-hand with communication (open up campus communication at all levels to talk with campus leadership).

- Provost Granberg has requested a pulse-check from the advising community re: recommend retention initiatives for RIT to consider.
  - In the next few days, Katie will be sending out a survey to the advising community, requesting that you complete the survey and return to Katie.

- Please contact Katie with any suggestions or concerns and be sure to take and submit the survey to her
Belinda provided an updated overview of HEOP and partnerships with academic advising.

- HEOP eligibility requirements:
  - NYS resident and high school graduate
  - Historically economically and academically disadvantaged
  - Have not previously matriculated
  - Have successfully completed summer pre-freshmen program

- These are some of the services offered to HEOP students:
  - HEOP counseling is offered to assist with: transition to college, tracking academic success, financial aid, personal/social outreach. HEOP also offers one-on-one tutoring, freshmen study hours (plan to restore in fall 2022), peer mentoring, freshmen textbooks and social programming.
  - HEOP is focused on making sure that students have a successful freshmen year.

- HEOP students’ one year persistence rates exceed the overall rates of RIT students. HEOP students’ six year graduation rates exceed RIT overall six year graduation rates.

- Program requirements that HEOP students must follow include:
  - Incoming HEOP freshmen are required to complete “DDI Summer Experience”, a 4-week summer residential program with MCAS students. Students complete two 3-credit college courses that can be applied to their RIT degree requirements.
  - Course withdrawals can lower students’ pace, which can impact aid eligibility. Therefore, any request to withdraw from a course must be pre-approved by the academic department, HEOP, and Financial Aid.
  - HEOP students must remain enrolled in at least 12 credits each fall and spring semester, unless it’s their last semester. In that case, they can attend part-time and receive pro-rated aid; however, housing and food will not be covered with aid.

- Belinda reviewed common characteristics of HEOP students, which frequently include being first generation and AALANA. Belinda also reviewed some common experiences/needs of HEOP students. Please refer to her presentation for more details.

- HEOP counselors are listed in SIS and include:
  - Belinda Bryce, Director
  - Maria Vega, Associate Director
  - Alisha Balkum, Assistant Program Director

- Process updates with HEOP partnerships and the academic advising community:
  - Belinda plans to send a list of currently enrolled HEOP students to the assistant deans later this week. Lists will also include HEOP students on LOA and academic suspension. This will be updated and distributed each fall semester.
  - Students in CRP will be located on referring college’s roster.
  - Suggested sending college rosters to assistant deans through Tiger File Exchange.
  - Starfish also indicates when students are HEOP.

- Please contact Belinda with any questions.
Disability Services Office

Catherine Lewis, Director, Disability Services, (DSO)

Sarah Benedix, Access Coordinator, DSO

Emily Mattison, Access Coordinator, DSO

Jordana Qi, Access Coordinator, DSO

- Sarah, Emily and Jordana began their positions in mid-October 2021 and are the DSO intake coordinators assisting students with accommodations, including scheduling students for test taking. They manage the student accommodation requests by dividing the group alphabetically: Sarah is responsible for A-G, Jordana H-O, Emily P-Z.

- Catherine shared that Shelley Zoeke, Associate Director, will focus more on DSO data, developing student learning outcomes, gathering information on how DSO students can more effectively communicate with faculty.

- The DSO is focused on a student centered approach with assisting and managing student with accommodations. An announcement will be made soon regarding upcoming infrastructure changes for the RIT Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (HoH) students and DSO.

- Catherine opened the floor for questions:
  Q: Should we be referring students to DSO based on what we think their needs are?
  A: Yes, feel free to make a student referral to DSO through Morgan Gunther, Senior Staff Assistant.

- Please feel free to contact Catherine with any questions.

Combined Accelerated BS/MS Programs

Katherine Beczak, Assistant Dean of Graduate Services, RIT Graduate School

Karen Palmer, Associate Director, Combined Accelerated Programs

Office of Graduate and Part-time Enrollment

(Please refer to the “CABM Update AC 01.18/.22” presentation)

- Karen and Katie joined today’s meeting to review the combined accelerated BS/MS program updates for:
  - Dual Degree Programs (BS/MS, BS/ME)
  - 4+1 MBA
  - 4+2 BFA/MArch Program

- The “Combined Accelerated BS/MS Programs” is a deliberate, cross-campus partnership. Karen and Katie look forward to working with advising teams to make sure you have all the information you need when working with accelerated scholars.

- The advising community is encouraged to take a look at the following websites for updated information. Please remember to refer students/families to these websites:
• General Webpage: https://www.rit.edu/study/combined-accelerated-bachelors-masters
  Early Accept Webpage: https://www.rit.edu/admissions/early-acceptance

• Updates regarding early acceptance offers from high school students (fall 2022):
  - Outstanding first-year applicants are selected and invited to participate based on academic preparation in high school (offers primarily to top 20-25% of high school students who apply).
  - Full admission to undergraduate major and conditional acceptance to graduate program(s).
  - Full admission to the graduate program is granted based on GPA requirement (i.e. 3.0 to 3.4), limited number of course withdrawals, and meeting with department leader. No additional GRE or GMAT required.
  - A graduate degree spot is secured based on academic milestones being met (“conditional requirement” PDF is linked from the “Early Acceptance” website).
  - A 40% scholarship is granted for graduate education courses once students cross over to graduate courses.
  - Once students submit intent that they are interested, letters will be sent after May 1st.

• The admissions timeline is outlined on the attached presentation. Early acceptance offers/communications were sent in early January 2022, and a virtual graduate information session was held on 1/13/22 with 89 attendees. Upcoming events include:
  - An information session is scheduled 2/10/22 (ED 1 and ED 2).
  - In early March (ED 1, ED 2 and RD), an information session is being planned.

• Katie shared updates regarding the fall 2021 Cohort:
  - Communication plans include:
    - Messaging to reinforce conditional status and admissions requirements. Will include “conditional requirements” PDF, linked to from the “Early Acceptance Site”.
    - “Welcome back” email from Enrolment Management (will be sent from Karen).
    - Spring invitation to special Graduate Education Week (GEW) programming (will be sent from Karen).
  - Events:
    - BS/MS student panel during GEW, scheduled 4/8/22.
    - Considering to include possible college specific programming information.
  - Marketing Collateral:
    - Marketing and Communications will hire an external firm to create a piece about the accelerated pathways for marketing and retention purposes.
  - Auditing of current students includes:
    - Katie is evaluating a potential centralized auditing process with support from the Registrar’s Office. Will include collaboration with departments to analyze existing auditing and communications (feedback welcome).
    - Working on new sub-plans, a potential new “change of program” form, specific to CAB/M, and implement follow-through to make sure reports are updated.
  - Assistant Director of Combined Accelerated Pathways, RIT Graduate School position is currently posted. More information to follow.

• Karen and Katie opened the floor for questions.
  Q: For accelerated student offers, what are the cap levels?
  A: The cap levels are done by the deans. Diane Ellison and Karen Palmer are working with the deans on this.

  Comment: Advisors get a lot of questions from freshmen who are accepted into the accelerated BS/MS programs asking when it will impact them. We typically tell them it will impact them around their third
semester, depending on the accelerated program they are in. Suggested that you emphasize upfront when it will begin to impact them.
A: Thank you for the feedback, extremely helpful. We will remember to include that information with marketing communication materials.

- Karen and Katie requested that advisors review the websites posted in the presentation. Contact them with any questions or feedback regarding the Combined Accelerated BS/MS Programs.