

Professional Advisors Group
Minutes – Thursday, March 10, 2005
Dr. Lynn Wild, Facilitator

Lynn greeted everyone and introduced Joyce Johnson, who is filling in for Susan DeWoody and asked everyone to do a self introduction.

Learning Communities – Kit Mayberry, Associate Provost for Academic Programs

Kit thanked everyone for attending.

Agenda of discussion:

- Learning Communities
- Suspension Letter
- Students awareness of curriculum changes/how to get them aware of changes

Learning Communities

- Overview and tabulation of winter quarter plans for 2006
- Pilot began with 14 communities totaling just under 300 students.
- All communities are program based
- All first year courses
- Fair amount of interaction
- Ranges from 2-4 credit courses
- Create control groups for each learning community
- Incoming academic profile – AP credits could not be accepted in community
- Developed control groups as comparable as possible.
- Main driver is RETENTION of students

Reviewed graph presentation:

TOTAL FALL QUARTER ATTRITION COMPARISON (by # of students)

LC's vs. Control of level of retention by the percentage of total students that did not return for winter semester – 73% as opposed to 2.3% (1/3 in LC's vs. Control)

- Too early to draw conclusion
- First quarter not as productive
- Used current/existing RIT students (More accurate count in the Fall)

FALL QUARTER ATTRITION (by LC)

- Control Group equaled as many that fit criteria
- Learning Community higher in the College of Business
- CIAS and Computer Science have most students

FALL QUARTER TOTAL GPA COMPARISON

- LC statistically just shy of 3.0 vs. Control 2.8 in total grade distribution
- Bottom line is retention and the quality of learning

TOTAL GRADE DISTRIBUTION COMPARISON

- GPA range falls out where you would want it to be

GPA COMPARISON BY LC

- CIAS was amazing with GPA 3.33
- COB split as retention is split
- Software Engineering also did well
- Information Technology Dean has requested a Learning Community

Reviewed and briefly discussed 2005-06 Learning Communities

- 700 Students
- 28 LC's
- 37% of 1st year class

Q&A:

- Would you do the program again: Overall consensus was YES!
- How were students chosen to participate: Letter was sent to first year students; departments created a pool of students – they were asked to RANDOMLY select 25 students and send Kit information. Must plan ahead for next year's program
- What is the impact when student changes major: Some students did change major but didn't want to leave community. Stayed connected by taking courses
- Will Faculty/Staff be the same for next year: Most of the faculty will return, would like seasoned staff.
- What is Faculty feedback: They find that students come to class due to a lot of peer pressure; there are still some rough spots that need to be smoothed out. Faculty members have done evaluations.
- Students with learning disabilities: they should be approached on individual basis
- Can the program be expanded to 2nd, 3rd & 4th yr. students: this is certainly something to pursue.
- Suspension Letters – Do students understand the meaning of "suspension"?
- Do Advisors need training for curriculum changes: Overall consensus was "YES".

Action: Asked Lynn to have a special meeting between now and registration to review curricular changes.

- Questions regarding Liberal Arts requirements: What do students know?
- They don't know enough
- Catalog won't help much
- Report Magazine could run a story to help get info out
- Draw up guidelines and hold a meeting the end of March
- Students ask about Double Majors: Double Majors don't exist. Dual degrees exist. Tell students that the institute is working Double Majors as a viable option in the 2005 Spring Quarter.

Tutoring Web Site – Julie Cameron

A website developed by Julie and two graduate students to find information quickly on tutoring support for students. Advisors/Faculty were asked to help keep information on site accurate by reporting any staff changes to Julie.

Log onto site: www.rit.edu/tutoring

Julie toured the site using a lap top and projector. Program is user friendly with specific instructions for NTID students is listed on pages.

It was suggested that the Tutor Training Schedule calendar be changed from a Microsoft Publisher file to a PDF file.

Lynn commented that Julie did a great job on the site.

Eileen Fishman was asked to defer her presentation to the next meeting.

Lynn to set up a one hour "Special" meeting to discuss curriculum changes prior to March 31st. Asked if possible to have two different sessions to allow all committee members an opportunity to fit the meeting into their schedule. Tentative dates to look at are March 31st and April 14th.

Lynn asked John Smithgall to check to see if a room to hold the meeting would be available in his area.

Next Meeting – April 14, 2005

- Eileen Fishman – Advising Manual
- Catherine Winnie – Honors Program
- Carolyn Buntich and Carolyn DeHority – Career Issues