

Student Success Council Meeting

January 23, 2004

Attending: Alison Anderson, Philip Bailey, Olga Berial, Marty Bragg, David Conn (co-chair), Donna Davis, Robert Detweiler, Tiffani Hamilton, David Hannings, George Lewis, Valene Mathews (recording), Kent Morrison, Cornel Morton (co-chair), Markel Quarles, Jerry Hanley, David Ross, Carole Schaffer, Mary Whiteford

1. Announcements

Introduction

Dennis Fantin a faculty member of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, was introduced to the Council by Cornel Morton. Dennis will be working on a special project for Student Affairs in researching "first year" students and their performance and will be attending future Student Success Council meetings.

CSU Student Success Conference

Student Success Conference Notes were distributed. The "Next Steps" will be posted on the CSU Student Success Conference website in the near future. Cornel will notify the council when the information is available.

Supplemental Workshops

Notification regarding winter quarter Supplemental Workshops recently went out to the instructors whose sections have associated workshops. Enrollment in the workshops appears to be up. The workshops are available to all students, not just those who are struggling, and there is evidence to suggest that they do help students to be successful.

Issues Arising Out of Academic Appeals

With the advent of "POWER", fewer and fewer students are looking at the printed Class Schedule, which translates to their not reading the footnotes. David Conn will be working with others to resolve this problem.

In Charge for A Day

Not forgotten! David will continue to work on those suggestions and will bring them back to the Council as appropriate.

Orientation Course Survey

Martin Bragg will be requesting syllabi of the various Orientation courses offered on campus and will be implementing a first-year experience orientation course and partnering with the existing courses. Martin hopes to have a menu of things that they can offer to those who are already teaching orientation courses, and to contribute on an adjunct basis.

2. Report on concrete actions completed, underway, and contemplated

Review of Total Units

Reduction in total units can make a significant contribution toward "Progress to Degree". In response to the former Provost's request that majors reduce total units to the new CSU minimum of 180 units or provide justification for not doing so, approximately 30 majors (about one-half of Cal Poly's total) have reported that they are reducing their units to 180. As previously announced, where the reduction is being made by the elimination of free electives, and there remain at least eight units of free electives in the major, the reduction in total units required for graduation is being made retroactive to the 2000-2001 catalog.

Free Electives

There is a new resolution before the Senate regarding free electives (copy attached). The resolution, from the Curriculum Committee, would change existing policy that normally requires a minimum of nine free electives in each major (except in accredited high-unit majors). The resolution would allow programs to reduce their required free electives below the current minimum if the units are used to reduce the total number needed for the degree. This resolution will remain on first reading at the next Senate meeting, but it may be moved to a second reading at the same meeting (due to its implications for curricular deliberations that are proceeding now as part of the 2005-07 catalog cycle).

It was suggested that the Council should take a position on this resolution. This will be discussed at the next Council meeting, currently scheduled for Feb 6 (which is before the next Senate meeting).

PolyProgress

As of December 1 2003, a total of 1,633 students had received full PolyProgress audits. A significant number of these same students will receive quarterly updates. We are still on track to complete the scribing in order to have all the majors in the system by the end of summer 2004. Not all students will receive audits, however, due to the continuing challenge of evaluating and entering transfer information.

Course Registration System

The University Registration and Scheduling Committee is consulting with the Academic Senate, ASI, and others in its efforts to re-examine the registration system and to make recommendations for its improvement. It is hoped that changes might be implemented in time for the coming fall registration.

The following options are being considered:

1. One week add/drop period
2. Limit the number of units captured on the first rotation
3. Automated Permit System

Review of "Repeat" Policy

The Instruction Committee is reviewing the course "repeat" policy and is in the process of collecting data on multiple repeats. Upon receipt of the data, they will decide on whether it is a significant problem to address.

Graduation Date Changes

Our students' current ability to change their graduation dates at will has been identified as a possible problem. David suggested that it should be looked into, and a decision made on whether to consider a possible change.

Mentorship and Diversity Issues

Cornel announced that he is collaborating with many groups on campus including the Center for Teaching and Learning to encourage faculty to participate in workshops on "mentorship" through the Center. Cornel would like the Council to consider addressing classroom climate and diversity issues that are student success related.

3. Budget

Bob Detweiler stated that he is making a series of intelligent guesses in order to reach decisions that must be made now in order to plan for admissions, summer quarter, etc. The Governor has called for a 9% budget cut, but he will allow fee increases that will lower CSU's net reduction to approximately 7.2%. Taking into account mandatory expenditures (e.g., increases in utilities), the CSU will be taking a real cut somewhere between 7% and 8%. Cal Poly's cut will be slightly lower and will be announced as soon as those figures are available.

Next Meeting will be on Friday, February 6, at 10:00am in UU 216.