

Student Success Council Meeting

October 24, 2003

Attending: Alison Anderson, Philip Bailey, Ken Barclay, Marty Bragg, Navjit Brar, David Conn (co-chair), Robert Detweiler, Joe Grimes, George Lewis, Valene Mathews (recording), Kent Morrison, Cornel Morton (co-chair), Markel Quarles, David Ross (for Jerry Hanley), Carole Schaffer, Susan Sparling, Mary Whiteford, Tom Zuur (for Kimi Ikeda)

1. Announcements

David Conn announced that a team of twelve (12) members will attend the Student Success Conference held by the Chancellor's office. The team members attending are as follows:

Cornel Morton, Vice President for Student Affairs – Team Leader
David Conn, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Undergraduate Education
Kimi Ikeda, Assistant Vice Provost, Systems Resource Management
Tom Zuur, Director, Academic Records
Unny Menon, Professor, Industrial Engineering and CSU Academic Senator
Myron Hood, Professor, Mathematics and CSU Academic Senator
Kent Morrison, Professor/Department Chair, Mathematics
Stacey Breitenbach, Director, College of Engineering Advising Center
Cindy Jelinek, Director, College of Science and Mathematics Advising Center
Mary Whiteford, Curriculum Analyst, Academic Programs and Undergraduate Education
Morgan Bauer, Student, College of Liberal Arts
Christian Elebiary, Student, Orfalea College of Business

The conference will be held on December 4-5 and we will look forward to a report on the results of the conference in December.

David Conn shared with the council his invitation to members of Advisenet, as well as department administrative assistants, to give their suggestions on what changes they would make if they were "In Charge for a Day". The response has been very good and David will be sharing them with both the Dean's council and the Student Success Council at the next meeting.

Robert Detweiler suggested that in a future meeting, the council discuss Cornel Morton's and Carole Schafer's "Sophomore Slump" program. Carole Schafer offered to give a presentation to the council on the program.

David Conn announced that, following discussions in the Curriculum Committee, Academic Programs is looking at an expansion of the implementation of unit reductions that appear in the 2003-05 catalog, where these have been accomplished solely by the elimination of free electives. The plan is to make these reductions retroactive to the 2000 and 2000-01 catalogs (2000 is when the Trustees lowered the minimum requirement systemwide). This curriculum change is not finalized yet, so if anyone on the council has thoughts about it, please contact Mary Whiteford or David Conn as soon as possible. Mary Whiteford pointed out that the change would be accomplished through blanket substitutions which would become effective in spring quarter 2004. Notification would take place some time before the end of fall quarter.

David Conn stated that another idea on the table is that, as programs move towards new catalog deliberations, we might have some accelerated way of bringing about unit reductions. There is always a trade off (and tension) between the accelerated introduction of desirable changes that are good for a variety of reasons, and the implications as they affect the Office of Academic Records and others. David stated that he is very cognizant of the impact on others and is trying to achieve the right balance. The particular curriculum change under consideration could have a significant impact on graduation rates within a very short period of time.

2. Call for endorsement of the 25/35 Program

David asked council members if they wished to endorse the 25/35 program, either formally (via a resolution) or informally. Philip Bailey said that he would support an informal endorsement, and would be happy to assist in the development of the program. Philip suggested that the 25/35 program be endorsed by the Provost, to encourage the faculty to participate in the program. Cornel Morton suggested that due to the informal endorsement's chance of getting lost in the minutes, he would like to request that the council endorse the program formally by creating a

resolution or a co-authored letter that he and David Conn would write to the President and the Provost. This would establish a record of the council's endorsement.

Robert Detweiler made a motion as follows:

- a. The Student Success Council would endorse the concept of the 25/35 program
- b. The council would direct the co-chairs to write up the endorsement and present it to the Provost, President, and Deans.
- c. The co-chairs would assign a taskforce to develop and expand the program and help promote it within the university.

David Hannings provided a second to the motion.

The council voted:

17 – Yes

0 – abstentions

3. Possible Overhaul of the Course Registration System

David Conn pointed out that a proposed strategy under the Objective #2 of the Student Success Plan is to establish a task force to recommend changes to the course registration system. There are many problems with the current system. If we continue to address these problems on a marginal basis, without establishing an overall vision of what we would like in the longer term, we risk moving in the wrong direction. On the other hand, if we explore a complete overhaul we may raise expectations beyond what is possible, at least in the immediate future. We need to be realistic about what can be accomplished.

David asked the Council to consider whether a taskforce should be established to review the overall system and to develop a vision of what the registration system should be in the future. The taskforce would need to answer fundamental questions such as: What is it we would like to see in a registration system? Who should control who sits in the seats of the classroom?

David also asked the Council for its views on implementing a proposal to change the number of units that may be captured during the initial Rotation. The University Registration & Scheduling Committee has already endorsed this action twice, and David would like the Council to consider whether it is time to proceed.

Joseph Grimes stated that, while he endorsed the idea of the taskforce to look at the overall picture of registration, he felt that it was premature to move forward with specific proposals such as changing the number of units that may initially be captured. Without looking at the bigger picture, changing the number of units captured could possibly cause other problems and not really resolve the bigger problem.

David Hannings said that he is in favor of making progress by implementing some of the smaller things, such as a change in the add-drop period. David Hannings said he feels very strongly that the add-drop period should be shortened. He also said that if there were some way that the system could check pre-requisites, instead of the faculty, then the faculty would be more willing to give up some of the control of who sits in the seats of the classroom.

David Ross stated that not all the pre-requisites are built into the system and it would be pretty difficult to check pre-requisites overall. Tom Zuur said that, over the years, there has been a lot of discussion in Registration and Scheduling on checking pre-requisites. You can in the system have pre-requisite checking; however, if you have the consent of the instructor, or you have credit from the outside, or you have substitutions and other things, then the automated system needs to be backed up with staffing. If no one is on campus during registration in the summer and there isn't someone to answer those types of questions, you would have real problems. Tom asked the Council to consider concentrating on policy before any incremental improvements are done. Some of those improvements can have a big impact, such as the units captured in the first rotation, or changing the add-drop period, pinning down control of the seat availability in the classroom. Is it the students that control the seats in those classes? Is it the faculty or is it the University?

Doug Cerf suggested that we have both a short-term and a long-term plan. He is not willing to wait to accomplish those small number of things that can make a difference now.

Philip Bailey suggested that the Council require the taskforce to develop the "vision" by Winter Quarter so that decisions could be made to implement changes for Fall Quarter 2004. An education campaign could be done within Spring Quarter 2004 to inform the students and staff of the changes.

Joseph Grimes asked the Council to examine the impact any changes would have on freshman, especially any change in the add-drop date. Most incoming freshman students don't fully understand what their needs are and cutting back the add-drop date too far would be problematic.

David Hannings and Kent Morrison asked David Conn why he was forming a separate committee to address these issues when Cal Poly already has a Registration and Scheduling Committee in place. David Conn explained that the Registration and Scheduling Committee has reviewed other systems in the past, but that they have not developed a "vision" of what the registration system should be. David hopes to accomplish this by bringing together key members of the Registration and Scheduling committee as well as some of the members of the Student Success Council.

Joseph Grimes made the following motion:

- a. A taskforce would be established to develop a vision of an improved registration system for Cal Poly and to make recommendations for specific changes. David Conn and Cornel Morton would draft a charge to this effect.
- b. The vision would be worked on until the end of fall; an action plan would be developed during the winter; and decisions would be made by spring, with an education campaign to inform the university campus of the changes that will occur based on the recommendations of the taskforce.

Robert Detweiler provided a second to the motion.

The council voted:

16 – Yes
1 – No

4. Pledging and Alcohol Use

David Hannings asked Ken Barclay to explain why there had been a policy change restoring the old practice of allowing fraternities and sororities to pledge during the first week of fall quarter. David stated that he has a problem every fall with students who allow pledging to interfere with their studies.

Ken Barclay explained that they have been closely monitoring this activity and reviewing the data by each house for a period of three (3) years. Based on the data collected over that period of time, the decision was made to restore the policy that allows pledging in fall quarter. Ken stated that all incidents are fully investigated and that enforcement has improved a great deal.

David Hannings said that alcohol plays a large part in pledging and has a definite negative effect on students and their success at Cal Poly. There was general agreement that alcohol is a problem and affects student success.

Martin Bragg offered to do a presentation to the Council on his research related to alcohol use on campus, which is the topic of a five (5) year grant recently awarded to the Health Center.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 3:00-4:00 p.m., in 33-285.