

**Minutes of
Student Academic Development and Achievement Committee**

October 15, 2010

2:00- 3:30 pm

Attending: Cindy Hardy, Jane Allen, Lili Misel, Deseree Salvador, Joe Mason, Suzan Hahn, Dave Veazey, Rheba Dupras, Gabriel Russell, Kate Quick, John Creed, Amy Keith

General Comments: Jane Allen wants to raise awareness that deadlines for the CRCD calendar are different than the deadlines for general UAF calendar.

Developmental designators:

In response to a question raised at the previous meeting, Margaret Short reported back that the Math Department is strongly opposed to changing the DEVM designators to MATH. Further, those she polled questioned why DEVM classes were at the 100-level. We noted that some students perceive 0-level classes as punitive. This led to a general discussion of Developmental Education concerns.

We noted that 60% of students nationwide enter postsecondary education at the DEV level, thus making it “college-level.” We also noted that there are different course numbers used at UAF, UAA, and UAS. We agreed that it would be nice to have the same designators at the three MAUs. We suggested approaching Faculty Alliance to open dialogue on class comparisons, including numbering, designators, and content. Lili will also talk to Mike Ernest in the Registrar’s office about this.

Cindy noted that Curricular Affairs is forming a Core revitalization committee, which needs a member from SADA. Amy and Kate Quick volunteered. Cindy will talk to Jayne Harvey and get us more information.

Student Learning Commons:

Suzan Hahn and Rheba Dupras joined us for a discussion on the progress on the Student Learning Commons. A Faculty Senate motion on this was passed in May 2009. Suzan reports they are focusing on space in Level 3 for the Learning Commons. They are slowly moving periodicals out of that space as they switch to digital-only format. Although the library has had budget and leadership changes in the last year, Naomi Horne, Office of Development, has interest from donors in this project. However, there is no concrete timeline. Suzan also noted that the Library is updating its computers to include Open Office and might be able to install the online homework program (ALEKS) that DEVM uses.

Rheba reported that she is working on organizing focus groups and doing direct observations to determine how the library is currently being used. We know, for example, there is not enough small group study space.

Rheba wants an action plan with steps and goals, now that we have a mission and vision. We agreed to form a subcommittee to work the action plan consisting of Lili, Cindy, Amy, Rheba, and Suzan.

Mandatory placement:

Reading placement will be on Banner in spring for Fall 2011 registration.

Developmental math will be collecting placement data after 2010-2011 because there will then be three years worth of data.

Gabriel pointed out that WritePlacer favors longer writing samples. Deseree said she sees many students placed too low with WritePlacer. Cindy noted that we need to pass this information to Dana Thomas. Kate and Deseree said about 25% of students placed this way seem to place too low. Jane Allen says that, because WritePlacer is timed, the Bethel test administrator advises their students to choose a prompt and outline their response on paper before making the first keystroke. The rural campuses are also hand scoring, using the "ASSET" writing sample.

Kate noted that some students seem to be advised into reading classes who don't need them. This is all a work in progress, and we will continue to track these issues.

Next meeting: November 12, 2-3:30pm.