

## **SADA Discussion Meeting**

Math placement (summary of table notes)

October 4, 2013

**Attending:** *SADA*—Gordon Williams, Cindy Hardy, Sandra Wildfeuer, Sarah Stanley, Joe Mason, Colleen Angiak, Alex Fitts,  
*MATH/DEVM committee*--Jane Weber, Amy Barnsley, Jill Faudree,  
*Guests*--Patty White (Testing Services), Holly Sherouse (for Libby Eddy, Registrar), Linda Hapsmith (for Brad Uzzel, AAC), Rainer Newberry (Curricular Affairs).

Cindy opened the discussion, noting that this is a discussion meeting only, a work session in hopes of coming to an agreement on the language of a motion. The motion will be introduced as a discussion item at the faculty senate meeting, October 7, then will be brought to the SADA meeting Oct. 11 for approval. After that, the motion will go to Curricular Affairs, then to the Faculty Senate Administrative Committee, then to the November Senate meeting for a formal vote.

We started by reviewing the language of the actual motion. Cindy noted that there will be a change to language in the English section of the catalog in a later motion.

We discussed whether disability language should be added or if this is covered in another statement in the catalog. We noted that if a student has a documented disability it would have been documented in the high school where they would be tested. If they take the test on campus, Disabilities Services will arrange for the student to take the test. We discussed the situation of returning students with disabilities and how they will be able to take the test.

Jill noted that rural student services let the committee working on this know of some issues they hadn't thought of, and stressed the importance of instructor permission as an option.

We noted that some students don't take the standard pathway to admission and that some special populations may still need access to ASSET, a paper test. We also noted that rural campuses are closed in the summer, limiting online access to students in those regions, which also suggests that we need to keep the paper test available as an option. Linda noted that it is often difficult to contact faculty for permissions in the summer.

An alternative would be to have students take ALEKS placement in the spring; then if they need the ALEKS 6 week study module before retesting, they could do this instead of a math class. We also discussed the time between testing and taking the first Math class and whether doing this would impact that time period.

We discussed the cost of ALEKS. Patty asked whether, if students place appropriately, they would still need to pay the \$25. She suggested students might not be charged for initial testing, but pay only for the study module. Could UAF pick up the initial fee? Math faculty noted that 70% of students who use the module improve placement and that the student would save \$400 on a class that they might not need to take by paying the \$25 ALEKS fee.

We noted that returning students unfamiliar with computers can get IT support to navigate software, and that in the math department has funds. Holly said that she will ask if Libby and Mike if they can include this and instructor permission under "alternate arrangements" in the catalog.

This led to a discussion of instructor permissions for courses. Rainer noted that there is an inconsistency in the catalogue: under prerequisites, some courses list "or by instructor permission" and some don't. Leah Berman suggested is to filing 30 catalogue changes so that all the math courses list "instructor permission" as a prerequisite. This will be discussed further in Curricular Affairs to see what the catalog policy seems to be and to determine if changes need to be made.

Holly suggested asking the rural campuses how many students take ASSET so the registrar's office knows how many students are impacted.

We also discussed funding for ALEKS testing. Jill noted that the \$25 fee per student, for about 1300 students, is about \$32,000. We discussed whether there are funds available at UAF to pick up this cost.

The Math/DEVM committee suggested that the \$25 fee be rolled into student semester fees and would show up on a student's bill as part of tuition. This would have to be approved at the Faculty Senate under the cost section of the catalog. Linda noted that UAF currently picks up the cost of Accuplacer, since we require placement tests. The Math /DEVM committee is meeting today with Libby Eddy to discuss ways to work out fee payment through the bursar's office.

Alex noted that the Provost is not opposed to looking for funding, but no one has submitted a proposal. We all agreed that dealing with the cost to students is the biggest obstacle to implementing ALEKS. Jill noted that other institutions who have adopted ALEKS have found it to be a money saver to students who do not need to repeat classes or take unnecessary classes.

We agreed to communicate by e-mail on the motion in order to amend it for the October 11 SADA meeting.