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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Thursday, March 8, 2007

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

March 8th, 2007

In Attendance: Sharon Carnahan (Chair), Jay Yellen, Hoyt Edge, Dana Hargrove, Thomas Moore. Marie Shafe, Ed Cohen, students: Brett Heiney, Greg Handrahan and Sara Patrick.

1. The minutes from the March 1st 2007 meeting were approved.

2. New Business:

- a. Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Roger Casey joins the AAC to discuss late drop protocols and issues of retention.

Roger has recently attended the SACS conference where there was a national study presented on 1st year retention at all types of colleges. The studies main points included,

- i. High quality students (gpa) = more likely to retain
- ii. Direct correlation between physically being in class and retention.
Recommendations of study – mandated attendance in classes and stringent withdrawal policies tend to lead to a better retention.

(At Rollins we have seen a dramatic increase in medical withdrawals which seems to be a national trend.)

- iii. Drop policy for courses. The study showed colleges with a fairly stringent add/drop policy tend to retain students better.

Rollins has a very lenient drop policy which is resulting in high drop counts in classes, reasons for this are, we have a liberal policy and the second- students often over enroll for courses then drop back. This also leads to registration problems.

For AAC to consider: when is our drop period.

Discussion:

Jay believes our drop period is very late and offered suggestions for the fourth week or perhaps as a compromise the eighth week, currently it is at the 10th week.

Hoyt pointed out the reason for the late drop was due to complaints by students of a lack of feedback from professors, and that this problem should be addressed.

Ed likes the academic warning system that was put in place to try and combat this issue but also feels the drop period is too late and is not good for the morale of the class.

Thom asked what are the strongest arguments against moving it to the 4th week. Roger said this is from the students and how they aren't receiving feedback early enough.

Currently there is about a 50% participation in academic warnings.

The students present also see the faculty feedback on their progress as a problem.

Thom is favor of the 4th week, Jay recommends the 6th week so it isn't as radical and gives professors enough time to get back to students.

Roger suggests that the 8th week academic warning would become redundant.

Would there be a higher drop out rate if it was moved to the 6th week?

The students present didn't think so.

Roger said that almost all colleges have an hour cap point beyond which you have to pay more money, this would perhaps solve over registration.

The Dean of Faculty will write a proposal for the change of the drop period and it will come to the AAC for a vote.

b. Political Science.

The next AAC meeting will be on March 22nd 8:15am in the Warden Dining Room

Dana Hargrove, Secretary