

CALS Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 9, 2011
124 Industrial Education II

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by chair Melody Carroll.

Members present: Melody Carroll, Mickie Deaton, Ebby Luvaga, Sarah Miller, Russ Mullen, Tom Polito, Howard Taylor, John Burnett (note taker). Guests: Paul Castleberry, Karen Zunkel.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Report from members (Paul Castleberry and Karen Zunkel) of a sub-committee of the university Early Credit Task Force. This sub-committee is looking into the college and department aspects of the issue. Initial statements: approximately 60% of incoming freshmen have college credits they are bringing with them from courses taken while in high school. For CALS students the number is 65%. The average number of credits per incoming student is 14. The group would like to collect information/feedback from academic advisors. Student focus groups will also be completed as part of this committee's work. They posed four questions to the committee.

Question: Have you encountered or observed any challenges working with first-year students who bring in early credit? Comments:

Some students don't realize they have earned these credits.

Class-based learning teams are harder to form because so many students already have one of the clustered courses typical to first semester learning communities.

Some are not aware of the potential impact on their graduation date.

Less time at ISU = less time to build their networking and resumes.

Lack of academic maturity – especially for juniors and earlier grades taking advanced courses.

Depends on whether they take the courses at their high school or at a community college.

Lots of variation in the courses taken. Some institutions offer weaker courses than others.

Students are not really ready for sequenced courses at ISU.

Question: What do you see as benefits associated with students entering ISU with early credit?

Students who complete these courses in high school seem to have more confidence.

Question: What suggestions do you have that would help ISU efficiently and appropriately meet the orientation needs of students entering with early credit?

CALS just underwent a review of our orientation program for new freshmen.

Question: Are there policies/processes that we as an institution might need to consider modifying to better support early credit students?

There is inconsistency in how these courses are applied within different departments.

Concern over the number of credits we are accepting.

Admissions Office is trying to get high school students to submit HS and CC transcripts before orientation. This seems more difficult with the new self-reporting system for admissions.

ISU is tracking the performance of these early-credit students.

Other Business:

Mickie Deaton: Regarding the file transmittal process – please have the students follow the steps listed on the form in the proper order.

There is a change in the procedure for the EIS advising sessions that begin at 1:00 pm: Students will be told to report to the appropriate department for their advising meetings. Beth will call departments who have students planning to attend the second meeting time. No longer need to pick the students up at 33 Curtiss Hall. No change in the 10:00 am meeting procedure.

Math Placement tests – Tom Polito stated that at the orientation retreat it was decided to use the Math ACT/SAT test scores rather than the university Math placement exam for new freshmen. For transfer students there is still a question since we don't usually see ACT/SAT test scores for new transfer students. CALS Student Services will contact Laura Doering to determine whether this information is available.

Tom Polito would like feedback regarding our use of MAP Works.

Regarding the yellow transfer student degree audits, no discussion at this time.

Tom Polito reported that he is chairing a university task force regarding the transition to paperless student files. He estimated that changes will probably occur in phases. They have certain goals for a new system: It must happen in real time. It should be convenient for advisors and administration – one stop system. It should have archiving possibilities.

CALS will continue to use Microsoft Access this year while the university works on future system development.