

Orientation Retreat: Academic Affairs Advising Committee

November 18, 2010

Attendees: Anne Oldham, Melody Carroll, Mike Retallick, Russ Mullen, Doug Kenealy, Jim halts, Tom Polito, Ebby Luvaga, Josie Rudolphi, Beth Foreman, and Barb Osborn.

Meeting was called to order at 12:20pm after lunch. Committee began by identifying the objectives of the CALS orientation sessions. The following have been identified by the committee as the objectives for orientation.

Objectives:

- Degree requirements of departments and/or core requirements. (DEPT)
- Potential job outlook (DEPT)
- Students finishing in 4 years (DEPT)
- SOAR in 4 contract that students can sign (COLLEGE)
- Role of the advisor, who it is, etc (COLLEGE)
- Who is YOUR advisor, how do you find out, change, etc, (DEPT)
- General welcome to the College (COLLEGE, Dr. Polito)
 - What the college can do for students
 - What sets CALS apart from ISU and how they work together, separately. (Dr. Luvaga shared that she has a slide that breaks down ISU—Colleges—Departments)
 - Learning communities and their benefits
 - Course registration, course cancellations
 - Toolbox: tips for success
 - Q & A Time: usually 20 minutes but could be reduced to 10 minutes.

Addressing study abroad opportunities was considered but the committee agreed having the study abroad office and display at check-in was sufficient.

Dr. Retallick said that during his time with advisees he discusses the three parts of students success 1) academics 2) being a part of the ISU community (clubs and organizations) and 3) Taking advantage of experiences (internships and international opportunities).

Somewhere (COLLEGE or DEPT) should address the University's schedule (how students get from class to class, what time classes start before and after noon, classes longer on Tuesdays and Thursdays).

Dr. Mullen suggested having students and parents fill out "5 Questions I have about ISU" when then register for orientation during the first day, and collect the questions and implement them into the College's presentation.

The committee then addressed what should be communicated to the parents during orientation and developed the following list:

1. Inform parents that advisors cannot release information about their son or daughter.
2. Encourage parents to maintain lines of communication with their son or daughter.
3. Parents should encourage son or daughter to take initiative.
4. Parents should encourage son or daughter to stay at school the first few weekends.
5. Parents should encourage their son or daughter to participate in an internship even if their intention is to return to a family farm.
6. Orientation rep should encourage parents to go to MU the next day and take advantage of other orientation events.

The committee then discussed the structure of the CALS welcome session. Dr. Polito suggested a welcome from faculty and advisors to highlight some of the accomplishments of faculty and show parents and students that the CALS faculty is engaged with students. Most of the committee agreed that having Dr. Polito do the welcome kept it consistent and unbiased. Dr. Polito thought that faculty could rotate and change with each orientation session.

The committee suggested a video or PowerPoint that ran through faculty members and advisors and their accomplishments within the college.

Dr. Polito then discussed how he runs his portion of orientation with the agriculture undecided students.

1. Welcome
2. Philosophy of advising
3. Discuss the “Menu” of majors and have students identify 2-3 they are interested in.
4. Scheduling
5. Math and Chem placement
6. Discussion with parents
7. Group advising—does not have students register themselves.

The committee then talked about the timing of orientation, since it will be starting half an hour later. Getting students to their departments is important.

1:30-2:10: Dr. Polio's Welcome

2:10-2:15: Get students to the department reps. Faculty rep needs to be there at 2pm.

Dr. Polio shared that he needs 1) to know who will be there from the department to pick up students and 2) the department rep to be there in a timely manner to pick up students.

Once students are in the department orientation, the department can administer the CIRP survey however they please but they should encourage students to complete the survey.

The committee then discussed the Math placement exam. The exam is not being administered by an outside vendor and students must take the test 2 weeks before orientation. The test will be required by any students who need to meet a math or stat requirement at ISU, including transfer students. The test length is variable depending on the student but could take up to 1.5 hours. ISU will no longer consider ACT scores for math placement. LAS and Engineering are piloting the placement test this year, CALS needs to decide if they want to be a part of the pilot or continue to use ACT scores to place students. Students can take the test twice, even once after orientation. The new test has a good track record. The test will cost students \$5, which will be part of the new student fees.

Dr. Polito asked for a motion on the math placement test. Barb Osborn moved to use the math ACT score for math placement instead of the new math placement test. Retallick moved to table the motion until the next meeting. Barb Osborn seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Barb Osborn expressed concern with the Foreign Language Office. When students need assistance and questions answered about foreign language during orientation there is never anyone in the office.

Dr. Kenealy shared with the committee that all animal science farm based classes will be implementing a \$100 lab fee, an increase from the \$25 they used to charge.

The orientation retreat concluded at 2:00pm.