

Minutes: UAC Executive Board meeting

October 2, 2013

Attending: Donna Witt (President), Amanda Mather (Immediate Past President), Avery Pavliska (President Elect), Bonnie Bustos-Rios (VP, Programs), Ashlea Schroeder (VP, Communications), Cristina Vela (Treasurer), Jaclyn Upshaw-Brown (Secretary), Jeana Goodson (Parliamentarian), Amber Skinner (Historian), Trina Gregory (AGLS), Michelle Trimble (Architecture), Brittany Hammond (Business), Casey Schumacher (Education), Jackie Perez (Engineering), Clint Crampton (Science), Karl Mooney (Transition Academic Programs), Marco Valadez (Liberal Arts), Dave Kincaid (BIMS), Mary Broussard (Assoc. Provost, Undergrad. Studies), Jennifer Lightfoot (Business Services), Morgan Jones (Academic Affairs), Brian Newman (Academic Affairs), Stephanie Bullick (Student Affairs), Mindy Phillips (Athletics), Bridgette Ingram (Financial Aid), Irene Scott (Global Programs Support), Justin Schilke (OAR), Col. Paul Timoney (Corps of Cadets), Laura Olivarez, Whitney Korthauer.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes approval: Minutes from the September 4 meeting were approved.

Officer & committee reports:

D.Witt:

- AOC meeting was canceled, so no updates from that.
- NACADA is next week. About 28 from TAMU are attending and will present at the October monthly meeting.

A. Pavliska:

- New Student Conference Updates: Admissions applications are open and up 134 % over last year. The deadline has been moved to Dec. 1 for fall 2014 admissions. In 2013, New Student and Family Programs had about a 36% return rate for conference evaluations from students; they are still getting feedback from families. The proposed new NSC model will be adopted in Summer 2014 (three conferences per week with Dean's/Advisor meetings on second day, and registration at 2:00 p.m.).

B. Bustos-Rios:

- Thanks to those who participated in Advisor Briefing Day; evaluations will be going out soon to seek feedback/suggestions about content. We want to meet needs of both new and veteran advisors with these events.
- She will be emailing those interested in serving on Programs Committee to discuss ideas for monthly programs.
- J. Druery (chair, Symposium committee) is working on calling the first committee meeting; anyone interested in joining should email him.
- The possibility of making Symposium a system-wide effort in collaboration with other system schools is introduced. B. Bustos-Rios notes this would be cutting-edge; no one else seems to be doing this on a system level. Also, it may help us to bring in a more high-profile speaker. She seeks feedback before agreeing to participate.
 - Concerns:
 - Symposium is our main source of revenue -- would we lose that funding? Eventually, other schools would want to host, even if the plan for now is to keep it on our campus.
 - Symposium is a good opportunity for advisors who can't travel to have local professional development, so the idea of turning it into something that would rotate among System campuses is concerning.

- Additional resources would be needed (space, processing proposals and registrations, moderating, and general planning), and we don't really know how many people from the other system schools would attend. D. Witt noted that Symposium filled to capacity last year.
- B. Bustos-Rios' responses to the concerns expressed:
 - The TAMUS Task Force on Advising doesn't want to "hijack" Symposium, but they really want to promote the opportunity to other System advisors. The plan would be to keep it on our campus and the funding would still be handled by UAC. In any case, we would never stop having a symposium on campus, even if the system-wide event was moved.
 - Dr. Hallmark (System Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs) is very supportive of this idea; his office may sponsor a pre-Symposium social and offer help and support, including with proposal reviews and publicity from other System advisors interested in participating in the planning.
 - J. Druery is working on identifying larger facilities to accommodate a larger group for this year's Symposium. A. Mather estimated that, with additional publicity from TAMUS and financial support for travel to the event, we might expect 50-80 attendees from other System schools.

A. Schroeder: Web site should be up-to-date. She is working on uploading pictures to Facebook and making a page for pictures from events on the website. People are invited to send her pictures.

C. Vela: She is finalizing an updated budget since some funds were moved to cover larger participation in ABD; she will present the updated budget at next month's meeting.

A. Mather: She encourages division representatives to make sure their colleagues know that submitting the membership form is different from subscribing to Bull, and they need to do both to get announcements.

Old business: None

New business: None

Division Announcements:

B. Ingram:

- Continuing student scholarship application opens Oct 15 -- please let students know. Study abroad/ISS scholarship applications close Oct 12. Information is on scholarships.tamu.edu.
- Financial Aid is required to confirm students' final HS transcripts are on file before they can receive their second disbursement in the spring.
 - Question: does this apply for University scholarships? No, it's generally only for federal aid.
- FA will start awarding aid for spring admits in October/November. She is not sure of the deadline for Colleges to make admissions decisions, but they probably will continue to award aid packages as students are admitted.
- Advisors are asked to make sure students are contacting FA advisors to learn repercussions of dropping/withdrawing, and to remind student teachers that actual enrolled hours are used to determine FA eligibility.
- The government shutdown has had no major effects so far, but some students trying to get documentation have been having trouble. If it goes on long, could be more repercussions to financial aid; however, lots of servicers are private entities and are not affected.

J. Schilke:

- Registration is running the scheduling optimizer this week. Their goal is to have the schedule live on Oct. 14.
- Midterm grading opens Oct 7 and closes Oct 14.

- Question: Do all departments submit midterms? Yes, but only for certain groups of students, including those with less than 30 hours, including transfers, athletes, students on probation, and certain scholarship recipients. Class rosters tell instructors who has to have midterm grades reported.
- It is strongly recommend that departments submit core curriculum revisions to his office early so they can look for possible problems.
- Degree Audit is very short-staffed right now, so there is a delay in processing adjustments for non-degree candidates; advisors can email him if it's important that one gets processed right away.

K. Mooney:

- The online form for changing majors into GEST is now live; it requires a designated major that is reasonable. If that's not the case, students will be encouraged to look into other options. Those who have been at A&M for 2-3 semesters must show they've begun work on their intended degree plan.

B. Newman:

- Announcement from TSI (Sharon Haigler): There have been several changes in state requirements, with the most immediate being in the required skills testing. Beginning next fall, there's one test for both placement and diagnostics. Students in the developmental program may still test out using Accuplacer. Another state requirement is that students must complete pre-assessment activity before taking TSI test. Advisors can contact Sharon with questions.
 - Question: Is the 30-day retesting time frame still in effect? B. Newman is not sure; he recommends contacting Sharon for clarification.
- The new "Let's Talk" program is available for international transfer students to make appointments with peer mentors to practice speaking English.
- Advisors are reminded to let students know about tutoring programs. Peer Academic Services is working with the Academic Success Center to recreate the tutoring pamphlet. M. Jones noted that Phi Eta Sigma also offers tutoring in some subjects; more information is at pes.tamu.edu. S. Bullick pointed out that the Disability Services web site has a list of on-campus tutoring programs.

M. Jones:

- The Academic Success Center has a number of students who need to go through the Fresh Start orientation program, so they're working on scheduling another one; they will send further information to the UAC Bull.
- Students are encouraged to attend ASC Fun Friday Workshops.

J. Perez:

- Reminder that all students in CLEN beginning in fall will be admitted as general engineering majors rather than specific majors.

M. Broussard:

- Advisor Appreciation and Professional Development committees are continuing their work.
- She will try to identify a speaker at NACADA for a university-wide lecture.

Minutes submitted by Jaclyn Upshaw-Brown, Secretary.