Present: Linda Chen, Connie Peterson-Miller, Theo Randall (Chair), Ann Grens, Vincci Kwong, Hong Zhuang, Yi Cheng, Jason Resler
Absent: Jannike Seward, Joyce Palmateer
Minutes taken by: J. Resler
Meeting convened: 1:13pm

1) Reinstatement Criteria

Looking at the requirement to register 30 days before classes start in CLAS. They are the only unit with this requirement.

CLAS did review the policy in the Student Affairs Committee and feel the rational for the deadline was still a legitimate concern. However, the policy has some flexibility in that students with real reasons for registering late and appropriate open classes exist. Transfer students (from inside or outside CLAS) who come in with probation have the 30-day rule waved.

There has been no formal assessment of the policy but past students who have been turned away due to the 30-day policy have usually returned. If the students are serious about coming back, then they generally do.

Consider looking at ways of getting students back on track before they are on probation. Perhaps a 1cr intervention type of class? The issues is that if there is no repercussions for not completing such requirements it is difficult to get students to complete them.

Bloomington has late starting classes (minnies) that allow students more flexibility in re-registering for classes. Perhaps that’s something to consider?

CLAS has done academic probation contracts with students in the past. These were to 1) make the student aware of the requirements 2) make sure the student was aware of the resources available to them. Department advisors are no longer doing these but some professional advisors have done them.

We need to do a better job of steering exploratory students in the right direction, more often than not these are the students that run into academic probation issues.

Academic Centers for Excellence do test studies to see what works with probationary students. There is more of a concern with probationary students but conditional admits are also of concern.

Linda will look at the possibility of a sub-committee to consider a plan for advancing the conversation about ensuring probationary student success.

The emphasis needs to be on taking something that you are interested in and doing well at that in order to lead up to a job, rather than going in only considering the outcome.
2) Admissions Requirements

Our student population, over the last several years, has shifted to primarily students coming directly from high school. In the past we created 2 levels of admittance ... fully qualified and conditional admits.

Now must have... CORE40, SAT400-700, and GPA 2.0

We are noticing some students, mostly first generation students or students from minority groups, who have a CORE40, academic honors, and good GPA but have low SAT scores. This has also been seen in white students from Penn, so it’s not necessarily a limited issue.

Admissions are not sure how to proceed with these students for whom everything looks good except their test scores. Admissions is looking to give them every advantage to enter college but there are not clear guidelines. Faculty sponsorship is an option but is somewhat fraught as some students, particularly first generation students, don’t know there is a ‘back door’ entrance if SAT scores are not sufficient.

Admissions is seeking some standard operating procedures for accepting these types of students. We need a consistent timeline and process for this.

We can ask students to re-take the SAT and some do, however, we have to consider the costs for that as this can be a hardship for some students.

We could possibly use the ALEKS system? Perhaps use the ALEKS system after July when SAT retakes are not possible. Possibly take the Math and English placements and use those similar to the SAT score for some students.

Flexibility may be the key it would seem.

Connie will look at the issues and timelines and bring a proposal back to the committee

Possibly invite Virginia Heidemann from the Bridge Program and either Monica Tetzlaff or Hayley Froysland of our Summer Leadership Academy to discuss the issue.

Meeting adjourned: 2:11pm