

RACAD Meeting 11/5/18

Nicholas Urquhart and Dr. Jerry Baker welcomed RACAD participants ABAC. Welcome from Melissa Tarrant, RACAD President, from UWG. Heather Collins and Jonathan Hull from USG were present and participated in the meeting.

Attendees:

There were many items up for discussion. Board of Regents Policy Manual – Dr. Denley is proposing changes to align with the Momentum year initiatives. Heather engaged attendees in the 3.9.1 discussion.

Melissa asked about “documenting student progress”, this seems to be difficult for faculty documentation far and wide discussion with Universities. Many are using faculty advising for mentors and program specific info, internships, and research. Some Universities are looking at incentivizing faculty to advise, place in it their promotion and tenure activities. Heather will take this back to her office, faculty center, and try to get an idea of what they are looking for faculty advisors: training and define by monitoring and documenting, cognitive and non-cognitive skills. Universities provide and offer training but universally, faculty members do not regularly attend. Discussion about capturing energy with new faculty to collaborate with advisors. Should we think about retention rather than registration, as advising is teaching.

The important part is the outcome for students, which seems to set the bar – according to Jonathan. Heather discussed academic expectations in advising and other monitoring and documenting, how is that covered and how is that done across institutions, is there policy?

RACAD members discussed how faculty document advising contacts - whether faculty to use banner, EAB, degree works. Is there a one size that fits all expectations and are not institutions responsible for collaborative framework. This collaborative team may include professional advisors and faculty. This group worked to include retention into policy, as Jonathan and Heather will add.

Melissa polled the group for RACAD or RAC'AD. RACAD won. (After all we are south of the MDL.)

Discussion and items by members: Beth, provided information on an upcoming spring training, Georgia Tech: Best Practices by GTAN, date, theme, and info will be provided later. Perhaps GTAN will be offered in May or June 2019 with a possible cost of \$60.00.

Pat Morris, from Coastal Georgia discussed a NACADA Drive In, maybe in September. Group discussed moving this to 2020, alternating with 2019 GTAN.

Spring RACAD meeting – link to 5/21st possible.

Eric from Middle Georgia State University, discussed placing advising holds on students records, with discussion if they are a barrier and/or do they benefit student progress? Also, are they placed and removed in a timely manner? Georgia Southern, send students a pin number to register, they must see their advisor for the pin number. Pin numbers stay even if the students change majors. Pin numbers are change out each semester. An interesting idea is that UWG uses a hold to withdraw from all classes. Students meet with advisors to have this hold removed and they are able to drop all classes.

Another issue include transcripts. Student applies, school evaluates, student admitted, but without adequate transcripts. RACAD members discussed this as a hazard for advisors in advising student correctly without knowledge of counted courses.

In regard to affecting retention rates, discussion on if a student owes financial aid at one school, should they be allowed to transfer to another school? One idea is to have transfer students entering another university, is to use NSC national student loan site or NSLDA – financial aid site to assist in identifying students. Several members discussed the possibility of having their Office of Admissions revoke acceptance. Others thought a change in the student's application asking for that information from the student would suffice.

Jonathan Hull discussed doing away with undeclared as an option for students to declare for the first 30 hours. This would align and support the Momentum Year initiatives. Focus Areas will replace the undeclared option and will be sent to inform Office of the Registrars in early spring. Advisors are urged to work with their University partners to plan for this change.

Learning Support All students placed in LS and will exempt based on scores. Students in LS 1 Math are not eligible for College Algebra. If placed in LS 2, can take College Algebra.

Jonathon and Heather announced the Momentum Summit II will be held somewhere near 2/28 – 3/1 and another Mindset meeting around April 19.

Additional items discussed included:

TIP Sheets: Transition Improvement Plans

Block Scheduling – Selected classes to place students in these

Parent Roles/Portals – who talks to them on campus? How do you structure it, parent portal?

Campus ESP, a vendor – shows financial aid and grades.

Career Connections – connecting career center with advising

Creating on campus teams (care teams)

Focus Areas on Application?

One Stop Shops – solution center?

Melissa shared an information from an article regarding “Student Needs have changed, Advising must change too” by Michael Anft 7/1/18. We were encouraged to formulate a definition of advising and goals to create guidelines.

Items by Others: Registration holds – when and who to use; group advising; scheduling and registration; advising message - same message from all advisors, how do we coach; how do we collaborate with career services; how do we talk about financial aid; advising verses retention specialist.

Next meeting in May, meeting adjourned.