

AGENDA
PROVOST'S COUNCIL
October 7, 2009
Corbett Conference Room
Meeting Time: 10:00 – 12:00

1. Announcements

2. Topic: ITS (Kircher)

Background:

The University has a Pandemic Preparedness plan which is kicking into action now that the H1N1 virus has arrived. One section of that plan addresses how we will provide for the continuity of classes if/when we end up having large numbers of sick students and/or faculty. Colleen and I have brainstormed what we think is a simple but practical strategy, but carrying it out, we believe, should happen within the colleges or departments.

Action: We'd like to dialog about it, finalize it, and get the early steps rolling.

3. Topic: Implementing registration holds to enforce mandatory advising (Burgess)

Attachment: Recommendation regarding changes to advising practice

Background:

Humboldt State University has a mandatory advising policy that was enforced through the use of registration codes available only from students' academic advisors, until the transition from Banner to PeopleSoft made it impossible to continue that practice. In the PeopleSoft system, the only way to enforce the advising requirement is to implement a "negative service request" – a hold on students' records that will prevent them from registering until the advisor removes it. When asked whether this mechanism should be adopted for Fall 2009, the first round of registration under PeopleSoft, the Council of Chairs recommended against such implementation, while affirming their support of mandatory advising. They requested that we explore other possible approaches to encouraging student contact with advisors. The attached recommendation was the result of that exploration. It was discussed at the Council of Chairs but no action has been taken. However, we are coming upon the time when we must prepare for Spring 2010; if we plan to implement registration holds, we must do so soon. In order to get more information to guide the decision, a poll of department chairs regarding the two basic questions below was sent out via email on Monday, September 21.

Results of the poll:

- 1) Should we place holds on all student records prior to spring registration?
 - YES – 3
 - NO – 7 (though some with mixed feelings)

- “For some students” – 6
- students over 60 units w/out a degree check, and by department (2)
- students under 60 units
- students who previously failed to appear for advising, freshmen, sophomores, transfers, undeclared juniors
- OTHER – 4
- Try it for a year to see how it works
- Not sure, but need something that makes students come to advisor – maybe old type reg codes
- Mixed – no general agreement in department
- Would like to see flexibility
- Intermittent – either only in the fall, or once at about junior level (about 90 units)

Also, three departments noted that enforcing prerequisites is more important than enforcing advising, and one noted that holds might be confusing to students because they can happen for a number of reasons aside from advising.

- 2) If so, who besides the designated advisor should be authorized to lift the holds?
- ASC – 4
 - Chair but not ASC – 3
 - ASC & Chair – 2
 - No agreement – 1
 - Advisor only - 1

Action:

I need your advice on how to proceed. Do we make this decision as a representative body of faculty and administrators, or do we send it elsewhere for action – and, if so, where and on what timeline?

4. Topic: 2010/11 Budget

Attachment:

Background: This year, most of the reductions are going to be covered with one time money, but we have to plan for base budget reductions in FY 10/11. I am interested in a general discussion on how we are going to plan for the base budget discussions.

Action: Advice to me on developing a plan for these base budget reductions.