UM Early Alert Raising Flags and Kudos: Best Practice

Early Alert:
UM Early Alert via Starfish allows faculty to identify students at academic risk. The system allows our faculty to notify the students in their course if they are concerned about the student’s academic progress based on course content and expectations. Early Alerts are initiated to provide timely feedback to students when they are not meeting expectations for course success. The Early Alert technology also allows our faculty to send “Kudos” (positive feedback) to students who are achieving outstanding performance or if they are showing improvement. Instructors can “flag” at-risk students manually and/or respond to a progress survey at weeks 2, 5, 8, and 12 each semester.

Flags:
Flags are course-based indicators that a student is not performing well in a course based on course content and expectations. Flags are the first step in a systematic intervention process. For example, if a student has a low quiz or test score, the instructor (or TA) could raise a flag to alert the student of their performance and offer help to improve their academic performance. The types of flags that can be raised by instructors and TAs are: Attendance Concern, Missing/Late Assignments, Low Quiz/Test Scores, In Danger of Failing, and No Show.

Kudos:
Kudos are course-based indicators that a student is performing well in a class. For example, if a student is improving their attendance, or course work, the instructor (or TA) could raise Kudos to alert the student of their performance and offer encouragement to continue moving in the right direction to achieve academic success. The types of Kudos that can be raised by instructors and TAs are: Keep up the Good Work, Outstanding Academic Performance, and Showing Improvement.

The following is a list of “best practices” as to why an instructor might want to raise a particular Flag or Kudos for students in their course. Instructors are encouraged to identify critical markers (i.e., exams, homework, papers, etc.) that will impact students’ academic success and then raise the appropriate flags and Kudos.

Types of Flags

Attendance Concern

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this flag:**
  - Student shows irregular patterns of attendance
  - Student shows pattern of being late to class
  - Student leaves early from class
Missing/Late Assignments

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this flag:**
  - If a student misses one (or more) assignment(s)
  - If a student is missing a critical or large assignment
  - Student has not turned in multiple assignments (homework, quizzes, projects, etc.)

No Show

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this flag:**
  - Student never attended class

Low Test/Quiz Scores

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this flag:**
  - Student performed poorly on an exam
  - Student performed poorly on a quiz
  - Student has low exam scores according to department standards

In Danger of Failing

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this flag:**
  - Student is at critical threshold of not passing the course
  - Student is a point where if their habits don’t change, they will fail

Types of Kudos

Keep up The Good Work

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this Kudos:**
  - Attending class after regularly
  - Receiving good grades on assignments, exams, etc.

Outstanding Academic Performance

- **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this Kudos:**
  - Student consistently performs well on assignments, exams, etc.
  - Performing better than most peers in course

Showing Improvement
• **Student behavior that might warrant raising of this Kudos:**
  
  o Class attendance/class participation has improved
  o Student is showing a dramatic improvement academically/class attendance
  o Student is turning in assignments after a period of inactivity
  o Student has shown improvement following a previously raised flag