ASCRC Minutes 9/12/172:00 GBB 225

## Call to order

Members Present: D. Coffin, J. Eglin, B. Hillman, J. Iverson, T. Missett, D. Morell, K. Sugden, G. Weix

Ex-Officio Present: B. French, B. Holzworth   
Members Excused: J. Hickman, N. Lindsay  
Guests: Kate Shanley- Native American Student Advisory Council, Jeff Abbott- Assistant Chief Information Officer

The minutes from 9/5/17 were approved.

## Communication:

* Professor Shanley, the co-advisor to the Native American Student Advisory Council provided background on the creation of the Council. Provost Brown wanted Native American Students to have voice on areas of concern and develop studies to understand their specific needs. At the time, there were problems with financial aid and housing.

The issue of excused absences for cultural hardship arose because several students felt obligated to join the protest of the Dakota Access oil pipeline. The students requested excused absences from professors to advocate for their beliefs, but the current policy did not accommodate this. Other types of hardship may include tribal ceremonies and funerals. Attendance at these events is important to show family solidarity and students are obligated to attend. It is hoped that the inclusion of cultural hardship in the policy will give students the confidence to have a conversation with their instructor prior to the event.  
  
A lot of work is needed to create better cross -cultural understanding. Professor Shanley has also been working with the American Indian Minority Achievement Council established by the Office of the Commissioner. It is working on a 5 part proposal for the Board of Regents to address the needs for cross-cultural sensitivity training and assessing how the Montana University system is meeting the Indian Education for All mandate.

Chair Coffin noted that ASCRC will be working on student success initiatives this year and identifying students at risk is one of them. Class attendance is also something that needs attention. Perhaps the excused absence policy should also include language to make it clear to students the time and effort involved in making up assignments to get caught up to the rest of the class. Student need the

## Business Items

* ASCRC questioned the need for the chair rather than the instructor to make the determination. A workgroup consisting of Professors Iverson and Weix and student member Morell will draft revised policy language.
* Brian French, Executive Director of Student Success introduced Jeff Abbott- Assistant Chief Information Officer, who provided an overview of the technology projects. The Banner 9 upgrade is coming. It allows self-service access for students and employees. Often there are complications getting new technology to read information in Banner, because it was configured 25 years ago.   
    
  It is a big year for technology improvements. There is collaboration across campus to implement the technology tools for student success. The pins on the [timeline](http://www.umt.edu/it/projects/Studentsuccesstechnologiesroadmap_v1.3.pdf) indicate when the technology will be available. Then communication, training and implementation begin. The timeline shows project dependencies. There is also a brief description of the project and status on the [site](http://www.umt.edu/it/projects/student-success/default.php). A three-pronged approach will be used for training. 1) Web based information and tutorials; 2) demonstrations for individual units with unique concerns; and 3) consultation. The tools should help students stay on track through easy access to information.   
    
  The Student Educational Planner is a part of Degree Works and takes the places of Academic Planner. It provides 4-year degree plans and allows for tracking students’ performance against their plans. It can alert advisors when students are off track and identify courses that fulfill requirements in the plan. There is a [reporting mechanism](https://www.umt.edu/registrar/DegreeWorksIssueReporting.php) for issues with the program.   
    
  Starfish is a robust tool for early alert. It also has an appointment calendar function. The early alert function allows for kudos and flags. Brian showed what this looks like in the systems interface. These messages provide a tool to increased engagement between the faculty member and student. Advisors can follow-up as well.   
    
  Members were asked to review the timeline in terms of the goals of ASCRC. The CourseLeaf Curriculum Management (CIM) system is scheduled implementation in the summer.
* ASCRC agreed that the Chair and Chair-elect should be automatic members on the Academic Conduct Board. The Board did not meet last semester.
* The Writing Committee forwarded the Plagiarism Resource for ASCRC’s information. The hope is that it will go to the Senate as information. The sooner faculty start using the resource the better given the students ongoing confusion about plagiarism. The chart has been shared with ECOS and it is in favor of getting the word out. The writing center purchased the right to use the graphic, but it cannot be posted for public access. Faculty can put it on their Moodle courses that are password protected. The catalog has a simple plagiarism warning and the student conduct code includes a one-sentence definition. The resource will be sent to members for information.
* The Committee is in favor of streamlining the review process for course number, title and descriptions. This would allow colleges/departments/units to take responsibility for minor changes. Chair Coffin will work on a draft procedure incorporating MSU’s review process.
* Brian will work with Chair Coffin on a resolution for ASCRC’s priority focus based on the six roles of faculty involvement in student success. Chair Coffin will reach out to the student members nominated to the committee as well.

## Good and Welfare

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.