Special Education Program Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2012 3:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Attended by: Drs. Timothy Knoster, Darlene Perner, Brooke Lylo, Angela Pang, Tony Zilz, Barbara Wert, Johan van der Jagt, Michael Karpinski, Barbara Wilson

Excused: Dr. Maureen Walsh

1. Dr. Knoster warmly welcomed Dr. Lylo.
2. Advisement Information
   a. Information for Faculty Eyes Only: New advisement information has been sent out electronically.
   b. PAPA: There is still a moving target for pass scores. However, our (few) students who have taken it have about a 50% pass rate.
   c. Discussed Khan Academy for students with mathematics deficits. Address: www.khanacademy.org/
   d. Any questions of PAPA: Take directly to Angela McCabe.
   e. Information re: the Math 201 (including the Gateway): It is possible for students to pass the Gateway and be doing poorly (D) in grades. Historically, faculty in math have been advising that the students drop the class. At this time students DO NOT have to get a C or better – they have to keep their overall GPA above 3.0 and pass the Gateway (and the course). So, a student who has passed the Gateway but is receiving a low-but-passing grade (D) may want to keep the course. The COE may create a policy to address this matter differently in the future...but for now please refer to the handout provided at today’s meeting as this reflects the current status of this course for our majors.
   f. Until more information is forthcoming regarding GEPs, use the current Yellow Sheet for advisement purposes with our freshman cohort.
3. Departmental Behavioral Expectations & Incentive/Acknowledgment Approaches (Multi-tiered Systems of Support)
   a. Tim asked that we (informally) inform him of “percolating” behavioral concerns with students (our majors) that are either a potential “big” concern or repeated pattern of minor concerns. He will maintain a very informal spreadsheet that will allow us to look at students across classes/professors in an effort to organize early forms of intervention and support to meet the needs of our majors (where warranted).
   b. Some statistics: Last year (2011) Fall semester, almost 1/3 of our freshman majors went on COE academic probation (earned below a 3.0 GPA). Over 75% of that 1/3 remained on COE probation following the Spring for a second semester. Moral: We need to have multiple ways to support the behavioral and academic needs of our students early in the process of their studies.
   c. The establishment of multi-tiered levels of support (early intervention as described above up through formal utilization of the COE Student Intervention protocol) is an “interim step” that is designed to address those students who are not sufficiently
responding to professor intervention/exhibit concerns across professors, PRIOR to implementing the secondary and tertiary prevention process including the COE Student Intervention Protocol.

4. Graduate Assistants
   a. Some of the graduate assistants have been assigned to work in the computer lab. This was done to meet departmental needs – so we can share or rearrange if needed. If you need more GA support, please inform Darlene with copy to Tim.
   b. Expect decreases in GAs in the future based on a number of factors including the fact that our graduate enrollment is becoming smaller.

5. We voted to allow Drs. Perner and Knoster to revise SPECED 567 to better align with our graduate programs. Drs. Perner and Knoster will move the process forward with submission to the department Curriculum Committee this fall 2012.

6. We have 2 classes within our certification sequence that are not dually listed: SPEC ED 417/517 and SPEC ED 449/544. Discussion ensued about dually listing these courses in the future. Issue tabled for further discussion.

7. Orientation to Special Education (SPEC ED 100.1): As we want to run this in Spring 2013, it needs to move quickly! As an experimental course, it will not need to go to BUCC. Moved and voted that this course move forward to Department Curriculum Committee as an experimental course as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

B Wilson