

**Faculty Assembly “Academics First” Meeting
Friday, November 12, 2010
UNC General Administration Building**

Overview: As we face new budget realities, it is important for campuses to continue to maximize all resources and for students to get the best possible academic experience. To that end, the November meeting of the Faculty Assembly will include as guests and discussants campus registrars, financial aid directors, and undergraduate advising leaders who will set the stage on issues surrounding student academic behaviors on our campuses related to academic progress. We will have in-depth conversations about issues such as drop/add, late WD, course repeats, and satisfactory academic progress and their impacts on student progress, available seats in classrooms, and fostering a climate of student focus on academic progress toward a degree.

Objective: To learn about the wide range of current campus approaches to these issues and discuss best practices. Our collective thinking can assist campuses in shaping better policies that reinforce the importance of academic planning, academic progress, and a climate of academic achievement.

Pre-Meeting Homework

You are asked to become familiar with your campus policies and procedures so you can answer:

- **What are you campus’ academic suspension/probation rules?**
- **What are your financial aid SAP rules?**
- **What are your campus drop / add rules?**
- **What are your course repeat rules?**
- **What is your campus process to have retroactive WDs?**
- **In your department, are there waiting lists to get into courses?**
- **Does your campus have a set of advising principles?**

AGENDA

8:00 - 8:50 a.m.	Historically Minority Institutions Committee Meeting	Conference Room A
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9:00 - 9:15 a.m.	Business Report of the Assembly	Board Room
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Morning Panels will use 40 minutes arraying the issues and 15 minutes for Q&A as preparation for the afternoon small group discussions.

9:15 - 10:05 am	Undergraduate Advising Panel	Board Room
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Carrie McLean
Executive Director, Undergraduate Academic Program,
First Year College
NC State University

Ontario Wooden
Associate Dean, University College
NC Central University

Steve Roberson
Dean, Undergraduate Studies
UNC Greensboro

Issues in Undergraduate Advising

- Portrait of our students coming into the system today (snapshot with data), are there any important trends to note?
- What is happening in terms setting expectations for academic success and motivation to succeed? (at first contacts, campus/web site visits, recruiting, application, admission, orientation, advising. Do students understand SAP? Do they understand when and how they will be suspended or kicked out?
- Do they get information about study habits? How to balance school and other demands? What are the principles of good academic advising? What can we do via academic policies to help students complete what they have started? Should there be penalties for chronic offenders that deter such behaviors without hurting students who legitimately need to drop late for valid reasons? How do advisors and associate deans for academic affairs share best practices to create a campus of “academics first”?

10:15 - 11:05 am

Registrars’ Panel

Board Room

Angela Anderson
University Registrar
East Carolina University

Jerome Goodwin
University Registrar
NC Central University

Louis Hunt
Vice Provost for Enrollment Management & Services and
University Registrar
NC State University

Issues in Registrars’ Office

- What is actually happening on our campuses?
 - How many drop/adds and when in the process?
 - How many late withdrawals?
 - What about course repeats?
- What are the current drop / add policies? How were they created and by whom? What type of student behaviors do

these policies incentivize? How many drop/adds are there? Are there patterns of who uses drop/adds? How do drop/adds impact course waiting lists? Do we need to levy an additional charge if we choose to allow course repeats?

- Reflections on these trends and what they mean – especially in terms of SAP and availability of courses (particularly high demand courses that are needed for graduation) and best use of resources.
- What kinds of student behaviors do these policies incentivize?

11:05 - Noon

Financial Aid Panel

Board Room

Sharon Oliver

Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management
& Director of Financial Aid
NC Central University

Julie Rice Mallette

Associate Vice Provost
& Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid
NC State University

Issues in Financial Aid

- Portrait of our students and financial need/aid
- How are students using financial aid? Are particular behaviors (sitting in classes and taking places and then dropping) incentivized?
- How are financial aid and SAP linked?
- What kind of debt burden are our students accruing and can they pay it back?
- Reflections on these trends and what they mean in terms of student access, performance, and on time graduation.

Grab your lunch at Noon and Go to Your Small Group Working Session

Afternoon Small Group Sessions will have 90 minutes to discuss, record, and be ready to report out to the full Assembly at 2:00 p.m. on their group's charge below. The morning panelists will participate in the small group sessions as resources.

12:15 - 1:45 pm

Small Groups Sessions

Group #1: Registrars

Board Room

This group will look at campus drop/add policies, late withdrawal policies, and course repeat policies in light of the problems introduced by the morning registrars panel. The objective of the group is to identify and determine if there are best practices that could make a difference in how we make the best use of our resources and assist students in making academic progress.

Group #2: Financial Aid

Executive Conference Room

This group will discuss how students use financial aid and what policy directives might improve our academic mission and most effective use of our finite financial aid funds, e.g., students who enroll in more hours (15 or 18 and then drop back); the needs of part-time students; of independent vs. dependent students, and what this means to funding in the State of NC.

Group #3: 10-15 Advising Questions

Conference Room A

This group acknowledges the average student in the UNC system needs effective advising in order to focus the student on making good choices to get on track to a degree and to make it to graduation in a reasonable time frame. If you could pose no fewer than 10 and no more than 15 questions to every student in an advising session that would help you, as an advisor, to understand the needs and issues of this student and help the student focus on the his/her pathway to academic progress, what would those questions be and why are those questions the best ones to pose?

Group #4: Academics First Initiative

Conference Room B

Imagine that the UNC System adopts “Academics First” as its prime directive and sets policies to promote that goal. It would signal that academics are the prime mission and that students need to be focused on the goal of success in the classroom. What is it that we would have to do, from the moment of contact on a web site, through the application and acceptance process, to orientation, to time on campus to convey this message? How could we accomplish this goal most effectively? What policies would be best suited to promoting student accountability and responsibility as well as advising and faculty support for this initiative?

1:45 - 2:00 pm

BREAK

2:00 - 3:15 pm

Small Group Reports & Next Steps Board Room

3:15 - 3:30 pm

Remaining Business Board Room

3:30 pm

Adjourn