

**Admissions, Standards and Honors (ASH) Committee Meeting**  
**March 22, 2013**  
**115 School of Human Ecology Building Conference Room**

Meeting opened at 1:30 with quorum; Gerry Knapp presiding, minutes recorded by Graham Bodie

In attendance:

- Voting members – Fakhri Al-Bagdadi, Gerry Knapp, Graham Bodie, Ioan Negulescu, Paul LaRock, Doug McMillin, Joseph Nicholson, Larry Smolinsky
- Proxies held – (none)
- Non-voting members – Paul Ivey, Michael Blandino, Robert Doolos, Patti Beste
- Guests – Theresa Mooney, Tom Sofranko (College of Art and Design)

Minutes from February 1, 2013 were approved by unanimous vote.

**I. Proposal – College of Art and Design:** First reading of request seeking direct admission for freshmen

- Tom Sofranko (Assoc. Dean, College of Art & Design) addressed the committee and provided a synopsis of the College and arguments in favor of direct admission
  - all units now have selective admission
  - total of 200-250 entering freshmen per year
  - allowing direct admission would provide better advising and promote the interdisciplinary nature of the college
    - lockstep nature of most programs and selective admissions process introduce more complexity to advising process and require advising and expertise
    - expressed a desire of College to hold onto students – may drop out of Architecture, for instance, and may “vanish” from College
    - direct admission will increase College’s understanding of attrition and retention issues
- Paul Ivy addressed the committee and provided the perspective of University College
  - the focus of UC is on freshman students, advising and counseling for first year students in particular
  - 2 units
    - Center for Freshman Year
    - UCAC – Center for Advising and Counseling
  - A “brief history” served to provide a backdrop of the reason for lack of direct admission and the current policy of LSU – potential reasons for why Agriculture and Music/Dramatic Arts have direct admission while other units do not
  - Provided insight into panel of faculty and administrators who discussed direct admission several years ago, reasons for sustaining the no-direct admission model
  - In the College, 55% of freshmen stay, while 45% transfer to another college
- Discussion Points:
  - Business school, Music & Dramatic Arts, and Agriculture all had proposals approved for direct admissions. Business school has since returned to UC model.

- Nature of resources for advising students: College indicated it believed it had capacity for and expertise in advising already, and is in fact already doing this for most UC students.
- “Middle ground” where advising holds and flags can be controlled by College of Arts and Design? logistical problems with this model, point discussed by representatives of Registrar’s Office
- Students who get advised versus those who do not by College:
  - studies show students who make “a connection” are more likely to persist
  - College expressed anecdotal evidence that students they see and advise are more likely to persist, no data available
- Reasons for not having direct admissions
  - large University
  - lots of students
  - creation of symbiotic relationship for students-advisors in UC, perhaps cannot exist if all colleges (potentially) had direct admission – no capacity in many colleges for this influx of students; UC also allows ability for students to remain in College, get advising and take their time to decide on a major versus the model of direct admission whereby students are only given one semester after de-declaring a major to choose another
- Question: for whom is this most beneficial, the College or the students? Or both?
- There will be a second reading at next meeting

Guests were excused; committee discussed needed data for more informed decision

- What happens to retention numbers when schools go from a UC model to a direct admissions model and vice versa? – Florida mentioned as a case study
  - Gerry Knapp will attempt to collect direct admit proposals and feedback from College of Music & Dramatic Arts and College of Agriculture, as well as any available research on retention / graduation rates for direct admit versus UC-type models.
- What about the 55/45 split of students? Where do the 45% dropouts go?
- Patti Beste will attempt to get a copy of the report that led to creation of the UC (research, justification)
- Doug McMillan will look into reasons College of Business moved to and then away from direct admits recently.

Discussion about returning members and those being replaced by others for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year term.

Changes in membership:

- Doug McMillin continuing for another 3 year term (College of Business)
- Gerry Knapp continuing for another 3 year term (College of Engineering)
- Cathy Williams replacing Ioan Negulescu (College of Agriculture)
- Still awaiting word on alternate position appointment

**Remaining meetings**, April 12 – College of Art and Design proposal (2<sup>nd</sup> reading & vote) and elections on the agenda

Motion to adjourn (Bodie), Second (Knapp), Adjourned 2:35 PM

[Minutes submitted by Graham Bodie]