Academic/Financial Aid Appeals Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 3, 2016
President’s Conference Room

Attendees: Becky Foskey, Natasha Good, Kenneth Englund, Kathy Whitaker, Janet Stracher and Karen Jones

Absent: Dr. Goodman and Bob Marsh

The meeting started at 10:40am with Ms. Whitaker and Mr. Englund joining through polycom conferencing. Discussion was opened by Mrs. Stracher explaining the reason for the meeting and the current appeals process. Mrs. Stracher explained there has not been a well-defined structure for the process of evaluating students on academic suspension. This meeting was necessary to begin the conversation about documenting this process similar to how we have specific criteria when reviewing financial aid appeals.

We reviewed a few spring 2016 appeals that the committee approved or denied to revisit how we were currently applying the “general rules” to those students on academic exclusion. The committee discussed a flowchart sent to committee members by Dr. Goodman that specified how the previous Academic Appeals Committee considered academic appeals prior to the consolidation of both the academic and financial aid appeal committees. The committee also discussed if the process should be “shortened” in order to catch at-risk students faster. The question was whether the current Warning, Probation, Exclusion, etc. process continue. Also we need to consider the impact on student retention. We discussed some possibly early intervention methods to reduce the number of appeals. One possible solution was the need for a Retention Specialist.

Karen Jones explained the difference between financial aid criteria and the academic criteria for appeals. Becky Foskey and Natasha Goss want to limit the number of appeals. Becky Foskey is going to look at the spring 2016 appeals and gather statistical data for the committee to review at the next meeting. She is going to look at the average GPA of students making appeals, number of appeals, etc. Ms. Foskey can get the spring 2014 information and compare to the fall 2015 information. Ms. Foskey was also asked to calculate the number of students that would be denied an appeal if the GPA requirement was raised for appeals.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55am with a future task of reviewing the information presented by Ms. Foskey and creating a new, documented process for appeals.

Respectfully Submitted,
Natasha W. Goss