

SADA Meeting Minutes 10/6/16 9-10:30am

Present: Sandra Wildfeuer, Sine Anahita, Cindy Hardy, Olga Skinner, Jen Schell, Mike Earnest, Bill Howard, Robin Brooks, Stacey Howdeshell, Jennifer Tilbury

*Minutes approved

*Agenda approved

Old Business

Statewide Alignment Update: Cindy Hardy reports that DEVE and ENGL are in place to switch to the WRTG designator for courses next Fall. The discussion focused on Placement tools, as UAF must either renew or drop Accuplacer this academic year. Cindy has solicited feedback from the DEVE curriculum committee as well as from SADA committee members regarding placement measures. General satisfaction with Accuplacer seems widespread, but both DEVE and Jen Schell (ENGL) agree that a writing sample would be ideal (although more time consuming and possibly more costly). Some discussion ensued over the WritePlacer tool (part of Accuplacer) and dissatisfaction with it as a writing sample assessment tool. Cindy also mentioned some research supporting use of a student's high school GPA as a placement measure; Cindy observed that this might not work well in Alaska given such varied high school experiences across the state.

Freshman Progress Reports: After our discussion of the date of Freshman Progress Reports during last month's meeting, committee members solicited feedback from colleagues (is it too early, too late?). Sine and others reported that faculty felt overwhelmed with the Progress Reports and their AAR's falling on the same day. A suggestion was made to change the date to Oct 15th because the Oct 2nd deadline was just too early for most to properly gauge a student's progress in class. Note: those in Math and DEVM generally are more interested in an even earlier Report since progress can be assessed a bit quicker than, for example, writing classes). Vice Provost Fitts was interested in hearing this discussion, but couldn't attend this meeting. We will pass this feedback on to her for continued discussion and possible action.

New Business

Repeating Courses: At UAF, students can take a class repeatedly for a higher grade if they have failed or want to boost their GPA. Other universities have different policies regarding repeating a course. For example, UAA policy states that a course can be re-taken only once. Some concern has been raised here that students might not have sufficiently mastered the course content if there have been multiple attempts to pass the course. Should UAF change the policy for repeating courses? A discussion followed – some committee members voiced that many students fail classes due to issues beyond their control (death of parent, serious illness, etc), not due to being academically unprepared/able. Because of these affective issues, some committee members support keeping the repeating course policy status quo. A suggestion was made that perhaps there should be, after a certain number of attempts to pass, an appeal process to re-take the class. A suggestion was made that there could be a mechanism in place

to identify students who are repeating a course/who have failed a course to set them up with required support labs, a linked support course, etc. This discussion will continue.

Pre-Major Status: Tabled until the next meeting.

Adjourned at 10:30am.