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
  o all units now have selective admission
  o total of 200-250 entering freshmen per year
  o 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
  o the focus of UC is on freshman students, advising and counseling for first year students in particular
    o 2 units
      ▪ Center for Freshman Year
      ▪ UCAC – Center for Advising and Counseling
  o 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
  o Provided insight into panel of faculty and administrators who discussed direct admission several years ago, reasons for sustaining the no-direct admission model
    o In the College, 55% of freshmen stay, while 45% transfer to another college
- Discussion Points:
  o 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 3rd 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 (2nd reading & vote) and elections on the agenda

Motion to adjourn (Bodie), Second (Knapp), Adjourned 2:35 PM
[Minutes submitted by Graham Bodie]