February 15, 2011
Gold Room, MU

Present: Phil Caffrey (Admissions), Melody Carroll (CALS), Deb DeWall (Engineering), Jane Jacobson (LAS), Jill Kramer (ASC), Brenda Kutz (CBE & Adviser Development), Stephanie Larson (Business), Barbara Mack (Faculty, Co-chair), Allison Reich (COD), Susan Rhodes (ASC), Diane Rupp (Registrar), Ali Soltanshahi (ISSO), Pat Walsh (HDFS, Co-chair), Chris Wise (CHS), and Karen Zunkel (Provost Office)

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as submitted, after making the ministerial change of eliminating the errant numeral “6” at the bottom of the page submitted.

Grouped Photos of Advisees on Access Plus

In January, the group discussed the possibility of having groups of photos of student advisees on Access Plus, similar to the way in which class members’ photographs are grouped for faculty. The project is not on the list of priorities of the Computer Advisory Committee (CAC). In discussion, Brenda Kutz noted that faculty had asked for this, and she said that she had several advisees with similar names, and a group photograph would be helpful. Diane Rupp agreed to investigate and report back to the group on how UAAC could help identify priorities for advising, and whether a work group would prove helpful.

Survey of Advisers

Mack noted data collection had been completed. Jane Jacobson said that several advisers in her college were unable to complete the questionnaire because there was no opportunity to select “open option” as the major advised. Mack agreed to ask Jason Pontius to re-open the survey to allow these individuals to participate.

Open Option Task Force

Jacobson reported that the first Task Force had identified lack of scholarships as a significant problem for open option students, and that a proposal had been sent to Assoc. Provost David Holger for 500 scholarships for the 2011-12 academic year. These will be targeted for high-achieving students with high financial need. She also noted that a Learning Community would be established in 2011-12 for open option students that would include LAS 104 and LAS 290D. Special sections during orientation will be created for open option students, and a program of email communications will be established for open option students.

Changes in Admissions Process

Special guest Mark Harding reported on changes to the admissions process. He noted students can now self-report their academic record, so long as the official high school transcript is received prior to mid-August. He noted that 2/3 of students who are admitted do not matriculate, and the self-reporting process will save many hours of staff time. Students are able to received an admission notice with 48 hours after completing an application. He shared with the group the
email notices students receive if their official high school transcripts and ACT scores are not timely received.

There was also a general discussion on the use of class rank in admissions, and Harding noted its importance is diminishing because some classes have few students (Lineville, Iowa, had a graduating class of 7 students) so fewer schools are issuing an official “rank.”

He noted that Summer Trial students will still be admitted.

He reported that non-resident offers have not exceeded last year’s. He noted that fewer potential in-state freshmen were applying.

Student Success Summit

Mack noted that as many advisers as possible should participate in the Student Success Summit scheduled for Friday, March 25, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Memorial Union. Dr. Harvest Collier of Missouri University of Science and Technology at Rolla, Mo., will present the keynote address of the Summit on Thursday evening. Registration is available through ISU Conference Services.

Online Catalog “Live” on March 1

There was a general discussion of the online catalog, which will “go live” on March 1. Brenda Kutz will consult with Char Hulsebus to see whether a brown bag session should be scheduled, although several people noted Char is making in-college presentations for advisers.

“Course Climate” Survey of Student Attitudes Toward Advising

Melody Carroll reported that the first survey of students will be conducted in Spring, 2012. She noted that there was some concern about how the information would be used; the subcommittee will work to create guidelines and policies for information use. She noted that colleges who have evaluated advising for several years have found it a valuable tool.

Adviser Exchange

Brenda Kutz reported that the next Adviser Exchange would occur March 3 in the Gold Room at noon and would be on “Designing Academic Interventions for Struggling Students.

Awards and Achievements

Phil Caffrey noted that the information from the Adviser of the Year bulletin boards would be incorporated in the “Advising the Adventure” poster for the Student Success Summit. He will work with Barbara Mack to incorporate the information.

Four-Year Plan Forms
Karen Zunkel noted that Four-Year Plan forms no longer need the signature of the Associate Provost. The plans need be approved only at the college level.