CCGB Minutes, October 25, 2002


Ex-Officio: B. East

Other: K. Hubbell, C. Pakkala, J. Powell (for J. Saylor)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of October 18, 2002 were approved with minor modifications.

Undergraduate Announcements: None

DAISY: K. Hubbell (Dean of Students) spoke about DAISY, a web-based, secure and encrypted program for collecting evidence with which to identify distressed students. This software was completed by M. Hammer (Student Services) and put online as a pilot at the beginning of the fall semester. Although it is viewed as potentially a university-wide system, D. Maloney Hahn (Advising), K. Smith (Advising), M. Hammer and C. Whitlow (Academic Support) are the only people with access to DAISY at this time. DAISY is meant to be used by select faculty and staff who can enter information online about students who are displaying inappropriate behaviors or changes of habit, and C. Whitlow then monitors the information regularly. The system is meant to be distinct from the confidential medical records that are maintained by Gannett and from the formal academic record. University Counsel believes that this system provides a good way to reach out to students without breaching confidentiality. Although DAISY is only for engineering students right now, it will eventually be tailored to the needs of other colleges, if the pilot yields positive results. K. Hubbell stated that he would like DAISY to be implemented for the university next fall. He also distributed the DAISY “Handbook for Referring Distressed Students,” which is in draft form. It has a great deal of information on how to recognize students in crisis, what to do in those situations, and what offices to contact for assistance. T. Jordan (Assoc. Dean) expressed the concern that, if faculty had access to the system, they would solely utilize that and not make a personal call to the Advising Office, as they currently do. K. Hubbell emphasized that using the system shouldn’t replace human contact, and that students in crisis should still be walked to CAPS, etc. He stated that early intervention is the key to preventing suicide, substance abuse, violent behavior and other issues. Generally a student in crisis will be involved in more than one incident and, while individually those incidents might not be viewed as too problematic, together they might signal a severe problem. C. Van Loan (CS) asked if a faculty advisor would be able to see all of the problems people input regarding his advisees. He recommended that student situations should be handled quietly and directly through human contact. K. Hubbell replied that each faculty member would only be able to see what he/she inputs, that C. Whitlow, D. Maloney Hahn or K. Smith would scrutinize the collective information, and they would decide what course of action should be taken. He emphasized that human contact should still be utilized.
F. Gouldin (M&AE) expressed his concern about confidential student information being accumulated in one place, much of it anecdotal. He added that 2 different faculty members might react very differently to the same situation. He said that he feels that widespread use of the information would be very intrusive on the students' privacy. K. Hubbell stated that any information gathered on DAISY will be destroyed when a student leaves the university. He added that he has seen 6 suicides in 1.5 years, and information existed that might have prevented them. T. Jordan pointed out that there is a difference between students missing class due to their boredom with it and those who miss it due to depression, and it would be difficult for some faculty to decide on the cause of the absence. K. Hubbell responded that, with 19,000 students on campus, it is difficult to connect several issues related to a student without a system in place. The goal is to get the information to the appropriate people to prevent tragedies. If DAISY becomes a problem, the system will be pulled. B. Kusse (A&EP) stated that during add/drop students meet with their faculty advisors, and potential problems can be addressed. K. Hubbell responded that frequently the information obtained outside the college (from a Resident Hall Director, athletic coach, etc.) is not readily available and could be entered into the system. C. Van Loan (CS) expressed his concern that there is no filter in the electronic system, and he feels that other faculty members don’t need to know what others are entering into the system. J. Bartsch (BEE) said that talking to colleagues rather than having the information online is the best bet. K. Hubbell stated that he will come up with a policy that addresses ways to ensure that the online information isn’t used improperly. R. Kay (EAS) asked how he could enter into DAISY a student situation when he doesn’t feel qualified to judge a situation. K. Hubbell replied that no diagnosis should be made; just the facts should be written down. He added that, if he has to call a parent about a student who is in crisis, he doesn’t state specifics (to protect confidentiality) and just expresses his concern about the student. Unless a situation is life threatening, he asks students for permission to contact their parents.

Student Experience Committee Report: J. Bartsch (BEE) distributed copies of the summary report for the Student Experience Subcommittee. The subcommittee reviewed past student experience committee reports (1991/98 Student Experience Surveys and 1994/98 COFHE Surveys) which enumerated concerns in 3 areas: 1) student/faculty interaction, 2) stress/self-confidence and 3) scope of curriculum. The subcommittee also identified opportunities for improving the student experience, reviewed ABET outcomes in non-technical themes, reviewed college programs that enhance formal curricular requirements, and incorporated ABET themes in suggested changes in the college programs. Due to a time constraint, the subcommittee report discussion will continue at the 11/1/02 CCGB Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.