**All-Campus Advising Association Fall 2012**

**Financial Aid/Academic Advisor meeting**

**12 October 2012**

Presentation by Joshua Puhn assisted by Zach; notes by Doug Hintz (TLC) with assistance from Lori Manson (OAA).

Mostly addressed the intersection of Financial Aid and Academic Advising. Defined SAP (GPA at least 2.00) and Pace (completing 67% of all credits attempted). Both are aggregate, cumulative calculations. GPA is only on UO work, but pace is UO and transfer work. All of the old terminology: FA warning, probation, petitions, etc. is gone. A student is **eligible** or **suspended**. A suspension can be overridden with an **appeal.** Students and staff often still use the old terms. Joshua wanted the advisors to understand what a student is facing and help stress the importance of making a reasonable graduation plan and the importance of completing whatever courses are on the schedule. It does not matter how any of the academic credits were paid for in the pace or SAP calculations.

Reviews are done once a year for all students in June after grades roll. A student who fails to make SAP or Pace is immediately suspended from financial aid eligibility, which includes that summer as well. Arturo and Lori reported that this swamped the Academic Advising office and the Committee on Tuition refunds. Students had very little notice to drop classes if their summer aid was suspended. Especially if it was a zero week class. If a student is registered for classes and does not drop before the 100% refund date, he or she is on the hook and will owe something. The student not knowing their aid would be suspended or their aid appeal would be denied does NOT constitute reason for approval from the refund committee. Students will be held responsible for any summer balance.

The intersection is in the appeal process. A student is required to craft an **academic plan** with an advisor. If there is no advisor’s signature, the appeal is not heard. The academic plan can be fluid and flexible. The student will be monitored each term. If the conditions for the suspension remain, but the student passed every course attempted, the appeal rolls over to the next term. The student will receive aid for the next term, but is still on thin ice. The important considerations are that the student must pass everything for which he or she is registered. W, I, Y, N, or F will cause an immediate suspension of aid for the next term, except for rare cases like:

(Case Studies) A student is just below a 2.00 and just below the 67% pace. He or she passes 12 of 16 credits with good grades and takes a W in the fourth course. By passing 75% of the schedule the pace moves above 67% and the GPA rises above 2.00. The student is back in good standing and will no longer be monitored.

A student, who has been academically DQed and then successfully appeals for reinstatement, is on P2 and will need to submit an academic plan as part of the appeal to release aid and he or she will be under the same monitoring as above. Appeals for all students are judged for (a) is it a serious plan (b) are there other flags (c) trajectory of the student. Most appeals are handled by one advisor; borderline cases are handled by a committee.

Additional Important Points:

Whenever a student does something “good” the financial aid office should be notified immediately because students’ records are not often reviewed in the middle of the term. For example, if a student completed an I and the professor changes the grade, the student should notify the financial aid office immediately and ask for a re-review. This change could result in aid being retroactively granted for the term in question or possibly remove a student from the monitoring.

Transfer students from community colleges automatically come in with 100% pace and only accepted credits count towards Maximum Timeframe limits (150% of degree program). Transfer students from 4 year schools can bring in more than 124 credits and thus may be closer to Maximum Timeframe and may have pace issues.

Students who are approaching the 150% of program limit (Maximum Timeframe) will be put on notice and are asked to submit **a course plan**, which is rigid and must be followed to the letter. No electives or fluff. Major department advisor is needed here. For example, if a student has 240 credits but it is obvious that it will take the student 60 credits to finish, the aid is suspended immediately until a course plan and appeal is filed. They do not wait until the student hits 270. These appeals are always heard by a committee. Double majors or minors do NOT constitute a strong reason for appeal and are typically denied.

There is no appeal for aggregate loan or aggregate Pell limits.