

## **Dean's Council**

December 2, 2010

Attendees: B. Barnett, E. Daffron, B. Langer, S. Rosenberg, S. Perry, L. Siecke, L. Chakrin, C. Romano, B. Varano and D. Echols Tobe.

### **SPIF Funding**

B. Barnett called the meeting to order and asked B. Varano, from Institutional Effectiveness, and D. Echols Tobe, chief planning officer, to talk about SPIF funding. D. Echols Tobe spoke about the planning process and the development of institutional priorities. She also noted that indicators for all these are on the Institutional Effectiveness website and are tracked regularly. All requests for SPIF funding should be put into WEAVE online.

B. Varano spoke about the planning process involved with SPIF, she noted that strategic fund is meant to be for first time initiatives. This year there were several requests for funding and some were not first time initiatives or were already existing functions.

- Recommendations for funding are taken to the cabinet for approval.
- There was discussion on funding timelines and availability of funds, and format of applying for SPIF funds.

### **Competitor Schools**

C. Romano presented on competitor schools. Main competitors for Ramapo are Rutgers and TCNJ. Montclair, Rowan, WPC all have lower incoming SAT preparedness. These schools also give a lot of money to the lower end students.

Data for competitor schools was generated from the National Clearing House, a national organization, though not every school subscribes to this service.

He is looking for better prepared freshman students who wish to major in business and would like to do a better job of marketing to undeclared students.

### **PLEX – or credit for prior learning experience**

There are some students already waiting for this policy to be implemented so that it can be used for them to graduate.

Enrollment management proposed a few changes to the original policy which hadn't been updated since 1981. PLEX is most important to adult learners who want to use their life experience.

There was discussion on number of credits that will be accepted and the principles behind the need for review of the policies. Conveners would be allowed to give flex approval, though Deans would have the opportunity to review the proposal.

It was decided that the change in plex procedures would go to the Provosts' Council for recommended approval in January. The Deans agreed to implement the process immediately.

### **Enrollment Update**

Ramapo is currently at 90% of enrollment goal. There was discussion on transfer registration and offering enough sections of needed courses. B. Barnett reminded deans to look at classes that would not run, and consider reassigning faculty as necessary.

### **Course Scheduling**

E. Daffron – presented on course scheduling. It was noted that 50% of Ramapo courses run once a week. The Academic Plan sets a goal that by the end of next year, this number will be reduced to 25%. Each unit must work to reduce the number of courses offered once a week. This does not apply to the adult learning program.

Discussion continued on lower level general education courses and over and under enrollments.

B. Barnett remarked on cost savings and asked what else could be done to save and have a more effective and efficient curriculum.

### **Living Learning Communities**

Next fall there will be a launch of a pilot program called Living/Learning Communities. This will focus on freshman, particularly undeclared students living in the same residence halls. There will be 4 communities of 20 to 25 students each. They will be taking two courses together, first year seminar and social issues. The concept behind this program – is to create a synergy between these two courses and track student progress inside and outside the classroom.

Hopes are to have it expand beyond undeclared students. The program can have high impact on student retention rates, grades and social adjustment.