Academic Advising Committee Meeting

8/18/2015, 2:00 pm

SB 310

Present: Brian Cawley, Dana Hebreard, Meredith Segur, Phil Stegink, Julie Yonker

1. We discussed the Fall Conference Presentation (see paragraph below). The presentation slides were discussed with an emphasis on how advising connected in with Calvin’s Strategic Plan and Educational mission. We had ~10 attendees at our session. After the Fall Conference Presentation, the slides from the presentation were sent to the Registrar’s office.

2. New Advisor Training (8/26/2015, 8:30 am, SC 356) was discussed concerning what topics covered. Dana, Tom Steenwyk, Thea Brophy and Julie Yonker provided input for the eight new advisors.

3. First Year Advisors
   a. Business advisor update – Brian informed us that the business department was pleased with how the first year business advising was handled this past academic year. Misty Wondergem permitted the faculty to focus more specifically with upper class student advising and vocational concerns. Her advising evaluation ratings were quite good.
   b. Pre-Health Advisor (liaison) update – Dana and her grad assistant Amber provided a lengthy document with information about pre-health advising that they had gleaned from a variety of sources. Julie Yonker and Amy Wilstermann are working to provide a succinct proposal as well as data from Calvin. We have informed the Provost’s office that we intend to submit a proposal in October.

4. Advisor assessments – discussed that Mike Stob would like to have these assessments be conducted in-house rather than through CSR.

5. Retention is a big focus for this academic year. We would like to invite Todd Dornbos to come to our next meeting.

Title: Strengthening Calvin’s Educational Mission through Academic Advising

Thea Brophy, Brian Cawley, Dana Hebreard, Meredith Segur, Phil Stegink, Julie Yonker

The first point of Calvin’s Strategic Plan is to “Strengthen Calvin’s Mission in Education,” from which the Educational Framework was developed to guide the goals and outcomes of all curricular and co-curricular programs. Academic Advising is vital to the educational process of discerning courses, vocation, and how virtues are embedded within one’s strengths and calling. Come hear the results of benchmarking Academic Advising at Calvin against our peer institutions. Find out what we learned about ourselves from this benchmarking and how we will move forward to strengthen education through academic advising. Come learn some techniques that you can use that support the educational framework of vocational discernment and virtue enactment in your advising work.