CUSAD – Thursday, October 07, 1999 – 10:00 AM

(First part of meeting was a joint meeting of Financial Aid personnel and Registrar’s)

The meeting was called to order and Alice Hoffert asked that the FA personnel introduce themselves followed by the Registrar personnel.

The issue of Dual Credits is an issue that affects both groups and was presented for discussion by Betty Kuss Schumacher. UND and Mayville both stated that after the third week count, credits are entered for the student at which time they become sophomores or juniors (depending on their credits).

Bob Neas stated that it should be the student responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office as soon as they are considered a sophomore/junior so that an increased loan could be processed unless HECN can come up with a way to identify these students.

Dan Johnson suggested that a method should be designed that would allow credits to be entered early but that they could still be counted as freshmen for the first count.

Bob N. indicated that Distance Ed is also going to impact the counting method and that a lot of issues will change the way things have been done in the past.

Dan J. stated that differences in counting has been going on for years. Each group asks for different forms of gathering information which directs using different ways of looking at counting individuals.

Bob stated that timing is critical. Loans pick up the classification set by the Registrar’s records. If the bulk of awards is made in June but transcript data does not get on until late summer or later, this will continue to be a problem.

Scott Mahar asked for a definition of the problem from both angles so that they can go back to the analysts to look at the problem.

It is agreed that this will require program changes. The Registrar’s want to be sure the students are counted in the correct reporting. The Financial Aid people would like to see the correct grade classification out there so that the student would qualify for the proper aid.

Scott will try to have Charles take a look at this as soon as possible. Perhaps by next week they could bring the issue to their analysts for discussion and input.

Distance Education Project – Lynn Aaberg

Lynn handed out a recent document from Mary Ann Phelps. It discusses a brief survey identifying limitations on the scope of data being reported requiring a response by Oct. 15th. Scott expressed concern since his group won’t even get together until the 15th.

Scott stated it is difficult to count since it is just as difficult to identify who are the Distance Ed students? Alice stated the definition is “the distance between the faculty and the student”.

Lynn asked whether we should come up with a mission or goals for The Distance Education Project – a system wide document. Financial aid would be just a part of that document.

Dale wondered how we are going to get away from term-based system.

The “NDUS Distance Ed Demo Committee” needs to establish a “Mission Statement” regarding Distance Ed.

At this point Lynn also presented an update from the NDSU Technology Task Force regarding the current system and the possibilities for administrative system replacement. Two documents were distributed summarizing system alternatives and affordability/feasibility.

The task force will be recommending combinations involving options #3, 4 and 7. Scott feels we need to look at Oracle to see what would work. Over all it will buy us time until products on the market catch up to our current system. The task force is now giving priority to the student system. Lynn would be happy to pass on input regarding development concerns.

Currently there is no system funding provided for financial aid programmers. Therefore there is no support from HECN to meet the federal requirements. We must rely solely on people that are paid for by SLND.

Scott stated programmers report to Greg Chalmers not to him. He has no control over what they do since it is decided by Greg. To date Greg has been really great about working with Scott.

Dale – One Stop guarantee

Scott presented a study of student loans processed – to date (this past Monday) 28,421. Year to date 88% of loans were guaranteed by four agencies.

Julie Kubisiak presented a proposal to NDUS which was forwarded to financial aid directors. It is recommended that Student Loans of North Dakota be invited to the next meeting for questions and answers and provide more detailed information to respond to the questions that have been raised. CUSAD would like a response in writing before hand to questions/issues. When the responses are obtained it would be recommended that directors share and discuss the response with VP of Student Affairs or supervisors.

CUSAD was assured by Peggy Wipf, that no further action would be taken by the board office before an opportunity for input was provided from financial aid directors.

Electronic transmission of SSIG – Peggy/Scott

Most of the programming changes would be required at Peggy’s end. It is something that should be considered and recommended to the design committee. Peggy is going to bring this to the design committee for discussion.
Chapter 30 issues/1098T reporting – Dale

Guard relies on self-reporting for tax purposes. Minot treats it as an external aid. Katie expressed concern about double reporting (example: Minot and Lake Region).

Prepaid vs college savings plan reporting on FAFSA – Peggy

According to Peggy’s understanding prepaid tuition must be counted as a resource. Savings plan would not be treated as a resource. Peggy recommends that both be considered the same as assets.

Dept. of Human Services – Charlene

No more food services question reporting, since verification is only required for programs which specifically earmark room/board.

Miscellaneous expense budget – Alice

Alice looked up College Board recommendations based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data and recommends $2,650 for 2000-2001 for miscellaneous expense. Betty made a motion that in addition to $2,650 and in order to round out budgets, schools also are allowed to make an adjustment to the miscellaneous expense figure accordingly. Pat seconded, motion carried.

Peggy also asked if we want to take a look at books because of concerns expressed by Lynn Aaberg. The group decided to look at this at a later time.

Advertising on campus – Betty

Distributed copies of cards given out in bookstore sales bags promoting aid to students. Recommend that we ask for banks/scholarship search companies (free) to consider buying the bookstore bags.

Conditionally admitted vs. incomplete admits – Sandy

Schools can control the distribution of aid by codes (A= Admit, D= Denied, R = Admitted on Probation, etc.). UND uses A and R codes only.

Policy and procedure manuals for electronic processes – Sandy

Sandy was wondering if everyone has updated their manuals with RFMS and PELL. Charlene recommended using HECN training manuals.

Y2K – Charlene

Charlene stated that you can pull in funds in December even though you can’t disburse funds at that time. Has anyone considered doing this? HECN does plan to shut down but the exact date and time has not been determined.
NDLDS – Scott

Something new is coming out on this.

Respectfully submitted:

Betty Kuss Schumacher