Financial Aid FUG Meeting
Dickinson, ND
April 8, 2009

Present:  BSC, DSU, MaSU, MiSU, LRSC, NDSU, UND, VCSU, Dennis Junk, Sue Applegren
Present via Conference Call:  MiSU-B, NDSCS, Peggy Wipf
Guest:  Julie Kubisiak
Absent:  WSC

All NDUS Registrars were present via conference call for the first agenda item: Complexity Issues Regarding the W. Jeff Jacobs and Mary Iverson led the discussion.

The topic was brought to a joint meeting of the Financial Aid and Registrars FUGs at the request of the CAC. Reference the Ad Hoc CAC Committee February 24, 2009 Meeting Minutes for detail on the issues.

The SAP process pulls data from the student enrollment table. Students have to be shown as enrolled in the course with a W to count for SAP. 5 institutions record Ws when a student withdraws after the last day to add a class, 6 do not.

SAP requires the institution to be consistent within its own policies. SAP does not require an institution to record transfer Ws for example, but if it does, they must be counted consistently for all SAP requirements, they can’t be included for some and not others.

There are several issues related to the W, it was decided to focus on one at this meeting – whether to record the W for withdrawals. Board Policy sec 406.1 item g. June 19th, 2008 beginning Fall 2009 was discussed. What was approved was the 12th week was the last week to drop. The policy was written before 9.0. W is an action, not a grade assigned, it is a recording of an action. Discussed the potential need to revisit the policy. It was noted that any change in policy would need to begin with 0940, it could not be retroactive.

For Withdrawals:
Dickinson does not currently record the W but is willing to change its policy.
Bottineau does not currently record the W but is willing to change its policy.
Williston does not currently record the W but is willing to change its policy.
Wahpeton does not currently record the W but is willing to change its policy.

Valley City and Fargo do not currently record the W and requested two weeks to consult with their campus before making a decision.

The issue of recording transfer Ws was tabled to a future meeting. Registrars exited meeting.
During the ND HEUG there was some interest in ELM for loan application processing, invited Bob Thacker from ELM. ELM Resources is a non-profit corporation serving universities, colleges, lenders and guarantors. The product demo did not occur due to network issues at ELM. However, the ELM reps answered questions regarding their product. ELM works with close to 2100 lenders and guarantors. They do not need a lot of set up time, it’s primarily the paper work, can be set up in 30 days. ELM is free to schools.

Discussion of the pros/cons of switching to ELM. It was noted that Great Lakes ScholarNet is similar to ELM. Currently two NDUS schools use ELM for processing with Alaska Student Loans. Several NDUS schools already use ScholarNet. It was decided to see a demo of ScholarNet and then make a decision in May whether to switch to a new process.

Incarcerated Students- The current admissions application does not give enough information to determine if the student is incarcerated. After discussion of the issue, it was decided to add a notice regarding incarceration to the notices in Self Service.

Due to March 15th falling on a Sunday, it was determined to change the priority date from March 15th to March 16th in the packaging plans.

The following issues/requests were discussed and decided to handle by including in the Priority List. Dennis will send out a revised Priority List and ask schools to review and submit their new priorities.

- NDSU requested approval to add the verification flag status of “pending” to the verification loan hold process parameters. It was agreed to add to priority list
- Issue: we currently have the ability to view other campus’ student data on self-service pages. There was agreement that this should be corrected and should be a very high priority on the Priority List.
- Award letter using forms engine project – Dennis estimated about 400 hours to complete this project or should we explore other options? CommGen is the replacement for LetterGen; pursuing this would take a lot less hours than forms engine. It was decided to start working on CommGen and not pursue forms engine. This should also be prioritized.
- Some tweaking of the Common Data Set is also necessary and should be prioritized.

Next meeting: May 2009, Robin will try to arrange it to coordinate with a ScholarNet demo.