Old Business

- Spriden & Banner ID’s – Lisa Lewis
- Texting & Chatbots—Randy or Stuart
- Using ISU email – JoAnn Hertz
- Residency Updates—Laura McKenzie

Being Addressed:

- Academic Renewal – Alan Frantz, Jacque Baergen, JoAnn Hertz
- Drop/Delete for Non-Attendance - Laura McKenzie findings
- Finance Holds—Weston and Cody
- Parking- Sam and Noel

Old Business Addressed

Parking Options

Samantha Jackson and Noel Chapman came to the AARFF meeting to explain parking pass options for campus visitors that many do not know about. They also reported that the Parking Office is experiencing many changes and more options may exist in the near future. Departments can utilize a day-use parking pass card (department pays $4) that can be picked up from the parking drive-thru window on Humbolt St. A second option is a PDF day-use parking pass (department pays $2) can be emailed but the recipient will need to print it. Departments can order passes by email (parking@isu.edu) and need to be ordered a week ahead. They will soon have the order process available on their website. The $2 pass can be used for groups of less than a 100 people for the general parking lots, possibly in the reserved lots, but never in housing parking areas. In the near future, the use of parking meter pass codes will be operational whereby a parking pass code is emailed to the visitor ahead of the visit.
Alan brought up the inconvenience of business passes being issued to departments/colleges but cannot be used in the parking lot associated with the department. It was discussed that this is due to past misuse of business passes. The PDF parking passes are an alternative for people coming to campus and needing to park in the department’s lot.

Sam and Noel were thanked and left at this point.

Drop/Delete

Drop/Delete for non-Attendance could not be thoroughly addressed. It will be addressed at a later date.

James Martin from Financial Aid was asked by JoAnn how this issue would affect Financial Aid with auditors and significant findings. He replied, “We have the process in place for nonattendance which is the ‘X’ grade. When we get that list, it triggers the return of Title IV. The X grade works very good.” When the question was asked if all professors were good about turning in and using the X grade correctly, the consensus was ‘No’.

The current process is not student-centric, i.e. requires the student to fill out two separate petitions, involves several individuals and committees, leaves the student with W’s that affect financial aid SAP, often takes months not days to finalize, and causes student and parent dissatisfaction with ISU. JoAnn Hertz proposed the process discussed at the last AARFF meeting be sent through the proper channels (Staci, Lyn, Laura WN) and request it be adopted at least for first time attendees. The process is to submit a petition with the following completed: 1) confirm student’s non-attendance (X grades or verification of non-attendance by instructors, 2) confirm financial aid was not disbursed or if it was it was returned completely, 3) receive a statement from the student confirming they did not attend. The process was used for at least two students after being discussed and recommended at the last AARFF meeting.

Other ideas/efforts:

- Finance plans to send out paper bills to the student’s home address which may address issues of students who are registered but who do not attend and do not drop on their own.

- Use the midterm grade report and follow up with students who have X grades (75%) and have not made any payment.

- Current instructions to the instructor are to use the first day of class as the last day attended if the student has not attended. This causes Financial Aid to have to contact each professor to find out if the student attended one day or not at all. Jody suggests the instructions are changed to use the day before the class starts for clarity that the student has never attended.

- Disenrollment was brought up again as a possible solution. Several committee members opined that disenrollment would mainly affect the students who did not plan to attend and would allow seats to be opened up for other students.

Holds

As a reminder, holds not affecting registration are Parking, Student Health, and Day Care. These holds are for unpaid fees and range from a small amount to $200.
Cody reported that her analysis of Tuition Lock program showed students are unable to complete the 15 credits needed to stay eligible for the program. Math 1108 has been a course that students are finding difficult to pass. A good number of the students who have maintained eligibility are Presidential Scholars who have full tuition paid.

Some departments are offering their own help to students who need it, are outstanding students, and cannot graduate due to a monetary reason. The consensus was this practice may put the university in a vulnerable position if the departments do not follow appropriate procedures to avoid actual, or an appearance of, favoritism. Staci suggested a generally accepted method needs to be set and followed consistently for everyone so all have an opportunity to apply. James expressed a concern that Financial Aid needs to know of the intuitional funding being given to the student. There are Emergency Scholarships available and Deb Green shared information about a new Finish Line scholarship similar to what the departments are doing that is designed to help students complete their degree.

Cody provided information attached to this email concerning retention. Some of the data that was explored indicated that many of Idaho’s Dual Credit high school students were not going onto college. The state of Idaho has attempted to address this concern by offering the Step Ahead scholarship giving each student who has taken dual credit courses in high school $1000 for their first college semester.

Academic Renewal

Academic Renewal policy recommendations (see attached form).

The Academic Renewal policy is currently designed for students who left ISU on probation, return after 3 years, earn a 2.5 after 12 credits (or 2.00 after 24 credits). These students are allowed to have credits and grades from consecutive semesters of their choice (with advisor/dean advice and approval) be removed from the calculation of their gpa as well as from credits attempted/earned totals. The semesters will be shown on the transcript but are “bracketed” to indicate Academic Renewal was applied. This is a one-time only action that is done only under careful consideration by the student with their department advisor. The purpose is to allow a student with a record of poor academic performance attain good standing more quickly than they could by repeating courses they may no longer need.

Issues for the group to discuss included:

- clarify if Math 0090 and its P/NP grade can be counted in the 12/24 needed credits;
- 3 year lay out period
- attendance at another institution during the lay out period
- available to probation students only or be expanded to include good standing students
- allow for no lay out period if the Good Standing student has been at ISU for a significant time (e.g. 3, 5, 8 years) to apply Academic Renewal to a semester in which the GPA was below 2.0 GPA.
- consecutive semesters
Before utilizing the options, students must be educated regarding the pros and cons of this opportunity such as if it would be better to just repeat courses. JoAnn and Alan and Jacque will take the discussion points and draft a policy for review by AARFF at the next meeting for eventual submission to Academic Standards.

New Business

MATH

It was stated that “most” students fail Math 1108 the first time and it is something that is happening nationwide. Cody said that one ISU report showed 108 students had failed Math 1108 four times. Proactive methods through Momentum Pathways is expected to help. Complete College America has supported the math department in arranging all the ‘p’ sections classes. The “p” stands for Plus and requires more time in class with support and tutorials.

Math 1108, Intermediate Algebra, is a prerequisite to most GE math classes at ISU. Math 1123 and Math 1153, however, are not based in algebra and the student may not be helped by having to take a prerequisite that does not prepare them for the content of 1123 or 1153. The math department is looking at what action would be best to take to address this issue. Complete College America advocates for removing any pre-requisite that is not necessary/aligned. For information on this subject and more, visit the Complete College America website https://completecollege.org/

Discussion occurred regarding Complete College America (CCA). CCA suggests students take 15 credits a semester and ISU is now a Complete College America school. There are concerns about the 15 credits, as some students cannot realistically handle that heavy of a course load due to other obligations/choices. Freshman are also encouraged to take a math and English course their first semester/year which may negatively impact retention. James expressed his concern that there are academic programs in his estimation that do not need math, yet it is required. Alan replied that this is what Math 1123 is for, as it serves as a general use math.

Math 1123 pass rate has had a few issues that may be solved with some standardization of required content. Math department is addressing this.

Students who cannot pass some math classes at ISU are turning to CSI and passing. Research needs to be done as to why our students are able to pass a CSI math course but not an ISU course. Staci suggested we explore this issue and look at our curriculum.

The current SBOE policy of admitting all high school graduates, even those who may not be ready for college, was also discussed. This policy could have a negative effect on overall retention. It was suggested that we develop a support plan for Conditional admits, as well as the undecided students.

Staci Phelan summarized that the problem stems from an unintended consequence of the SBOE trying to help students get into college. The admission of students who are not ready for college often causes the student to be worse off than if they had not attended. They could go into significant debt, establish a poor academic record, develop/enhance a poor self-image, etc. James added the majority of defaulted student loans were under $5000 in loan.
Kris Clarkson suggested using language that is more positive like Supportive Admits instead of Conditional Admits and Exploratory instead of Undecided.

Additional Business:

Cody expressed her concern of the online rates that can be set by the department. She used the proposal for the online Masters of Spanish program for review and consideration of the long-term costs to ISU.

Roundtable
No time.

Next AARFF Meeting: TBD

Meeting adjourned 10:40 am