

INTERCOLLEGE COORDINATION PANEL
MEETING MINUTES
17 November 2000

Rich Gallagher, Karen Pence, Jan Wissman, Lynn Ewanow, Nancy Mosier, Kevin Donnelly, John Allard and Caleb Blanding were present at the November 17, 2000, meeting. Caleb Blanding took the minutes for the November 17, 2000, meeting.

DISCUSSION OF MINUTES

The minutes for the October 13, 2000, meeting of the ICCP were accepted as distributed.

DARS

The concerns about the speed and effectiveness of DARS (Degree Audit Report System) were discussed. The system, which is also used at the University of Miami-Ohio, is too slow and many feel that even a manual system may be easier in many ways. There is funding available to upgrade the system but it would take a few months and a new server would probably not help the problem of a lack of speed.

A DARS committee meets monthly and deals mostly with technical issues. The possibility has been mentioned of decentralizing the mainframe in order to increase the speed for everyone. It seems that the system will be used in the future, despite the problems with its speed and the lack of ease in reading its reports.

The effectiveness of DARS has relevance to the ICCP because of its use in the acceptance of credits for transfer students. Though the acceptance of many schools' (Wichita State University's, for instance) transfer hours are not integrated into the system, DARS is very useful in electronically accepting credit hours, which determine the number of UGE credits a transfer student will be required to take. Getting the system to integrate transferable credit hours with the degree check is difficult. The authority to make the decisions of whether to waive UGE courses in certain instances has been given to associate deans. However, DARS must be changed in order to complete this process and that would probably be timely.

One difficulty with DARS is that hard copies of transfer credit reports may not be sent through the mail. They must be downloaded, and the lack of an alternative becomes problematic since the system is so slow. However, one good thing about DARS is that students have liked using DARS as it is easy for them to get online and check their educational progress.

Similarly, there have also been concerns with the speed of KATS (K-State Access Technology System). As more students are using KATS to enroll, it has become slower. The number of

students using KATS to enroll is expected to increase, which will slow the system even more.

ADDITIONAL UGE COURSES

Any problems in the current enrollment cycle have been due to the lack of UGE options available to students at the upper-level. Two problems exist pertaining to UGE courses: not enough upper-division courses are offered, and many are not offered every semester. This results in students taking courses they would not want to take if they had other options.

Also, some colleges may structure their UGE programs to require that some Social Science or Humanities courses are taken as UGE courses. This makes the advising of students easier, but it undermines the concept of UGE as students do not have a variety of courses to choose from. The issue of graduate teaching assistants and professors that are new to the university teaching UGE courses is also a concern, since it would be possible that a course is not being taught as it was proposed under the UGE requirements.

Rich Gallagher will contact Vicki Clegg to gain feedback about the possibility of having additional UGE courses and her communication with department heads.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DECEMBER 15, 2000

At the December 15, 2000, meeting of the ICCP, the new graduate assistant will be identified and the schedules of the Panel's members will be discussed to determine meeting times for the Spring 2001 semester.

The meeting was adjourned.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ICCP WILL BE DECEMBER 15, 2000, FROM NOON TO 1:00 IN ROOM 301 OF CALVIN HALL.