The CLA Advising News

CLA Student Affairs and Advising Center (SAAC) • 310 Kirby Plaza • 726-8180 • clasa@d.umn.edu

Advising Under-Represented Students: An Opportunity for Action

The statement, “Silence does not equal acceptance,” was shared recently in a CLA SAAC meeting. This quote reminds us that we need to be open with how we understand diversity and social justice, and offers us the opportunity for self-examination and development as academic advisors.

Listed below are a few ideas to consider:
1. Examine your work environment. Is it silent or welcoming to all students?
2. Make frequent, clear statements about your commitment to creating an inclusive campus environment ("What Can I Do Right Now").
3. Develop good listening skills and ways of gathering information in a non-invasive, non-threatening manner (Cunningham, n.d., para. 2).
4. Take time for introspection and reflection on your own cultural identity (Cunningham, n.d., para. 3).
5. Recognize and reduce micro-inequalities, which are described as seemingly trivial, unrelated, ambiguous, or frequent behaviors and events that are oppressive, insulting, or hostile (Lee, 2009, p. 1).
6. Appreciate the deep meaning of diversity. Finding meaning, as opposed to practicing and promoting diversity, inspires and motivates (Lee, 2009, p. 1).
7. Recognize that advising may include going beyond the academic (Museus & Ravello, 2010, p. 54).
9. Utilize proactive advising by assuming the responsibility of connecting under-represented students with the resources they need to succeed (Museus & Ravello, 2010, pp. 54-55).
10. Begin advising sessions without preconceived notions of your students (Cunningham, n.d., para 1).

What works for you? Please share your ideas with us for our next Newsletter.

References:
- Museus, Samuel & Ravello, Joanna (2010). Characteristics of academic advising that contribute to racial and ethnic minority student success at predominantly white institutions. NACADA Journal, 30(1), 47-58.

Last Date of Participation...why this information is needed:

The financial aid office recalculates financial aid eligibility for students who withdraw, drop classes, receive a grade of F for all classes, or are dismissed. Students may be eligible to receive a refund of tuition and course fees, depending upon when they withdraw or drop; however, if the student receives financial aid, both the student and the financial aid office may be required to return to the federal or state government all or a portion of the aid disbursed. This also affects veteran benefits.

FAQS about last date of participation:

Why am I being asked for this information?

The University of Minnesota is required to cancel 50 percent of a student's federal Title IV funds if no course participation can be determined for students who receive all F's, N's, or a combination of them for a term.

Do I have to include it for every student?

You need only include a last date of participation for students who earn a grade of "F" or "N."

What if I'm unsure of the student's last date of participation?

If you cannot use the last date you received work for the student or the last date the student attended, use the last date of a required quiz, test, or homework assignment. Essentially, use the last date for which you could have recorded participation for the student. If you have recorded no participation or attendance, use the first day of the term.

Academic Advising Committee (AAC)

This newly formed committee represents the combination of ALOT (Advising Learning Outcomes Team) and PAT (Professional Advisor Team). Currently, AAC members are professional advisors; however, AAC would like expand membership to include faculty advisors. Watch for details and meeting times.

Spring 2011 Tuition Refund Schedule

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<tr>
<td>Cancel by January 25</td>
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<td>Cancel by January 31</td>
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