

9-10-2016

Academic Affairs Weekly Update 9-10-16

Cynthia Vascak
Plymouth State University

Gail Mears
Plymouth State University

Robyn Parker
Plymouth State University

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Academic Affairs Update 9-10-16

Colleagues,

We hope you had a good week. The energy on campus has been great, despite some challenges. We appreciate your patience as we streamline and integrate processes once handled across several offices. We also appreciate the valiant efforts of those who are learning new jobs and doing all they can to serve the needs of our students. We recognize there were and will be hiccups along the way, but we're confident that in the end, students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and community members will be better served. Below are some of the actions we are taking to address identified needs.

We are engaging technical consultants from Ellucian to carry out a process improvement assessment to determine the Banner Student functionality we currently use and recommend functionality needed to get us to where we want to be. This is a comprehensive, cross-divisional look at everything we depend upon Banner for—catalog and scheduling, recruitment and admissions, housing, all student records to include billing, and ITS support.

We are tweaking our organizational structure to make it even more coherent and effective. To this end, we have moved personnel functions such as appointment letters, contracts, stipends, workload reporting to Human Resources. Jen Smith has moved to HR and will continue to be your contact on these matters. We have moved financial support services such as budgeting, reporting, PCard and expense management to Finance. Doreen Burrows, Dorie Cash, and Donna French are now part of Finance. Ann Thurston has accepted a role in University Advancement as the Director of Planned Giving. We are excited for her!

We are continuing our monthly Deans listening sessions to gather ideas, concerns, and questions from faculty and staff. We met on Thursday and received several suggestions such as: establish dedicated time, campus-wide for cluster work and collaboration and establish a staff release proposal process so they can participate in clusters. Some concerns were: how to examine and prioritize needs to ensure things get done, need to look at HR/staff rules on participating in clusters, and the need for more clarity around the role of the success coaches. We'll explore these further as we make plans for the year ahead and beyond. Thanks to those who attended and shared with us. Our next session is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 19th from 3:30-4:30. We'll confirm the date, time and location in an upcoming weekly update.

Thank you for your contributions in getting the academic year off to a great start. We know change is challenging, especially when students share their frustrations when processes break down. As much as possible, please assure them that this is a temporary situation and do all you can to get them to someone who can address their concerns. We're resending the contact directory to help. If you cannot determine who to call, please contact Kristen Hersom (kahersom@plymouth.edu; ext. 53500) for assistance.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend,

Cynthia, Gail, & Robyn

The Academic Dean Team

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HRZE Overcast. Haze. Temperature: 48;
 Wind: Calm; Conditions as of Fri Feb 24 at 04:00 PM EST courtesy of The PSU Weather Center

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