Faculty Board for Undecided/Undeclared Students
Annual Report
2010-11

The Faculty Board for Undecided/Undeclared Students met twice this year, once in the winter quarter and once in the spring quarter*. The meetings were each attended by a subset of the faculty members and consultants that included:

- V. C. Choudary (Business, Board Chair) – W, Sp
- Ahmed Eltawil (Engineering) – W, Sp
- Gopi Meenakshisundaram (ICS/Engineering) – W, Sp
- David Buote (Physical Sciences) – W, Sp
- Natalia Komarova (Physical Sciences) – W, Sp
- Ken Chew (Social Ecology) – W, Sp
- Rudi Berkelhamer (Associate Dean, DUE) – W, Sp
- Jennifer Aaron (Assistant Dean, DUE) - W, Sp
- Kim Ayala (Director, U/U Advising) - W, Sp
- Christina Treble (U/U Advisor) - W, Sp
- Brittany Betancourt (U/U Advisor) - W, Sp
- Norma Arevalo (U/U Advisor) – W
- Debra Klarich (U/U Office Manager) - W

The agenda for the winter meeting was an overview of how the U/U Advising program serves the campus (for new board members) and a profile of U/U students for 2009-10 and Fall 2010. The profile data included demographic characteristics of students (from Admissions data), statistics on where 2009-10 U/U students were in 2010-11 (from U/U unit assignment data) and results from UCUES 2010 for U/U v. the rest of the campus.

The Board requested that the UCUES data, which had been summarized as a comparison of U/U students with the entire undergraduate student body, be reanalyzed and presented at the next meeting as a comparison of U/U freshmen with other freshmen. They also requested data on U/U success as measured by GPA, 1st year retention rates, GPA, time to degree, Academic probation status, etc. In addition, the Board raised several questions about the financial soundness of advising U/U students apart from other freshmen in times of declining budget and they requested campus-wide data that compared the advising ratios and cost per student for advising in U/U v. other units.

Director Ayala and Assistant Dean Aaron gathered the requested data to present at the spring meeting. These data and a discussion of program changes for 2011-12 were the focus of the spring meeting. During 2011-12, the U/U program will not include the University Studies 2 course. Instead, the U/U advising team will provide a series of optional workshops for U/U students that cover many of the key topics addressed in University Studies 2.

Data presented to the Board in spring assured the Board that (a) U/U students were equally successful by a variety of measures as were students who entered UCI with a declared measure and (b) student advisor ratios and cost per student for advising for U/U was in the middle of the range seen across campus and was not at the more expensive end of the spectrum.

* The fall quarter meeting was delayed until winter due to a health care situation in the U/U director’s family.
The Board had a very productive discussion of ways that U/U Board faculty might be involved in academic workshops during the coming year. Some of these would be involved having programs for U/U’s in their schools to introduce them to the majors and resources available. Examples included: including U/U students in Engineering Week, having faculty talk at U/U teas showcasing their research, inviting U/Us to public astronomy nights at the UCI observatory, lab tours of the ICS graphics lab, etc. In addition, one of the members presented a very interesting idea about setting up a Wiki page for each school where current majors could answer FAQs and also indicate what they liked about their majors.

The U/U staff will be working with a team of student peer mentors they have trained to design 2-4 different workshops per quarter, each to be given multiple times by the mentors. They will be in touch with Board members to set up some of the programs that were proposed.

Prepared by Rudi Berkelhamer
July 28, 2011