

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 6.M

DATE: July 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Items from the Council of Presidents/Executive Director

The Council of Presidents and Executive Director have referred three topics to AAC that came up at their June meeting. These are:

1. Withdrawal Dates – It was noted that the system’s policies governing withdrawal dates are lenient and, as a result, students often times are able to waste a semester knowing they can drop a course without academic penalty during the first 70% of the class days of the semester. Dr. Warner noted that this approach was adopted during the era of the Vietnam conflict simply to keep students enrolled. He added that when this period ended, most institutions retained these very liberal drop policies rather than reestablishing ones that promoted student completion. While this topic was discussed by AAC a couple of years ago, we have been asked to revisit the topic and to once again consider a revision to policy (see AAC Agenda items [8.A.4, September 2006](#) and [4.A, October 2006](#)).
2. Degree Audit – The topic of automated degree audit did come up during this discussion of student success. I noted that the degree audit process available in Colleague was not very useful. Dr. Warner asked that this be reviewed to see if there are changes that can be made.
3. Faculty Workload/Productivity Reporting – President Abbot stated that USD has implemented a faculty productivity reporting process that captures a series of outputs including enrollments/credit hours generated. He stated that this was enlightening and useful primarily because it highlighted how each faculty member’s efforts support the instructional mission of the unit/department/college/university. In some cases, wide variances are observed and administrators are using this as assignments are made. It was suggested that AAC should have a discussion about this to determine the tools that are being used on the separate campuses to capture faculty productivity. Members of the Council should be prepared to provide examples used.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discussion and, if needed, action steps.