

10/7/24: Counseling Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Castro, Castaneda, Moy, Alturk, Perez, Towle, Sanchez, and Allen

Guest Speaker: Sasha Financial Aid

- Appeals- currently behind with working on student appeals. Currently working on August appeals and forward.
- 4-6 weeks response time for students for notifications. Students are notified with personal and school email.
- If students do not receive their payment after a week, they should contact Sasha
- Higher Up Program- grant for students who were formerly incarcerated, CalWORKs, and former foster youth. Amount based off units:
 - <https://www.merritt.edu/financial-aid/hire-up-program/>

Specialists for students based off last name:

A-F: Antonia Andrews

G-M: Alyson Hunter

N-T: Sahra Omar

U-Z: Pauline Pang- Saraga

- Students should send appeal form to merfinaid@peralta.edu, but can also CC their specialist
- Lost 2 specialist- currently only have 4 specialists (only 2 on campus, only 2 are virtual)
- New front desk, but only working until November
- Seeking help from Fernanda or Jorge for translation services for Spanish

Guest Speaker: Charlotte Learning Center

- Charlotte has been the coordinator for the Learning Center since 2017. New Director of LC is ReJeanne Smith- former Merritt College student. Transition has been easier since the former director left. A lot less crew since people have left.
- Recruiting tutors the same way. Asking instructors. CHEM tutor is available, thought there was not
- In Person and Online Tutoring Mon-Thurs. Virtual Tutors are also in-person to help students with their appointments. Drop ins and appointments available.

Counseling Updates/Accreditation

Professional Development Ideas?

Possible suggestions- scenarios with counselors. Update with process for HR? Retirement workshop? How to invest? Major units not adding up total for degree-A&R.

Prereqs updated in Query- PARLG 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, MEDAS 470F, CIS 60. For PARLG students, they should start with PARLG 1 and 6. Still working on FISC 211 issue.

Athletics is moved to Division 1- no longer under VPSS - it is fully in instruction

Budget Committee. Veronica or Edwin will join and will update us after they attend the first meeting.

Evaluations - Progress Check was asked. All counselors in the meeting today provided their update and all counselors have at least told the counselor they are evaluating.

Gov Budget comes in January- unsure if we will hire, but with how things are going, very unlikely any FT Faculty Hires.

Co-Chairs will send a survey out asking what committees counselors are on to update the APU

Counselors should check with Jeff to see if they are part of the union and steps to join.

Program and Committee Updates

Articulation/Committee

N/A

Career/Committee

Cyber Security Job Fair- Friday, October 11, 2024, 8am-2pm in the Newton/Seale Student Lounge

October 23rd- Holiday Job Fair- Oakland- 1pm-4pm. Flyer posted on career center website.

Centro Latino/Committee

N/A

EOPS/Committee

N/A

FYE/Committee

N/A

Puente/Committee

This Saturday- Transfer Conference at CSUEB

Dios de Muertos- update will happen soon.

BIT Committee- new structure to committee. Updating the form. Dean Khoo is current chair

Matric/Committee

N/A

SAS/Committee

DE- still no chair on committee

Disability Awareness Month- Guest Speaker October 17 at 12pm

Great Shakeout is 10:17am all participation required

Transfer/Committee

UCLA still has dedicated time slots for pre-admission advising for Merritt Students 10/21 11AM-3PM

Transfer Day is Wednesday October 9th from 9:30am-12pm.

UC/CSU application window is open.

Umoja/Committee

N/A

Veterans/Committee

N/A

HSI/Committee

Workshops last week. About two students attended each HSI workshop.