ELIMINATION OF SUMMER SESSION CENTRALIZED IN-PERSON REGISTRATION

The Admissions and Records Policy Committee has recommended that UWM eliminate centralized in-person registration typically held in mid-May for Summer Session each year. The University Committee now places this recommendation before the UWM Faculty for their information and support.

RATIONALE

Unlike fall and spring semesters, the current Summer Session in-person registration is not really a wrap-up activity just before the start of classes for most students. Many summer sessions do not begin until 4 or 6 weeks into the Summer Session, leaving many students without lead time to make an informed decision about Summer Session classes in mid-May. In addition, the largest group of registrants for Summer Session tend to be students from other institutions. Many of these other institutions are still in finals week during the mid-May timeline, leaving students unavailable to in-person register. It has been noted that we have comparatively little add/drop activity at in-person registration in mid-May. Summer Session registration traffic appears tied to start dates of the various sessions. Students are able to readily secure departmental approval and submit forms to the Office of the Registrar.

The need to hold a centralized in-person registration has resulted in a very short Priority Registration period (ie two weeks) to get tallies and class lists out to the academic units. This period is typically from mid-April to about 1 May. By eliminating in-person registration, the priority period could be expanded by a week, hopefully reducing the number of students who have to come to campus to register. Summer registrants average 1-2 courses/student, which reduces the number of departments they would visit for course approvals.

There might be some improvement in the reliability of class enrollments without the push for students to make an early commitment to later courses at in-person registration. The rate of withdrawals prior to the start of classes is currently twice as great in summer as it is in other semesters (Summer Session 1992, 9,603 students enrolled with 1,009 withdrawing early).

The UWM University Committee

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