Birds of a Feather

Medical School Registrar and Financial Aid Administrators

Shared Issues, Best Practices, and Discussion

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2019 Central and Southern GSA & OSR Regional Meeting
Louisville, KY

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Birds of a Feather Session Format and Agenda

✓ Presentation of Scenarios for Discussion

✓ Ongoing Issues and Opportunities for Collaboration and Networking

✓ Review GSA Representation Structure and How to Raise Issues to the Regional and National Communities

Scenario 1: Step 1 Warning Signs

A student at your institution has been flagged as "at risk" for Step 1 failure. The student is currently in good academic standing and is enrolled full-time. The predictive model used to assign him the at-risk label is an internally-developed tool. Your Associate Dean is adamant about early intervention for at-risk students to avoid a highly problematic Step 1 failure. The student is not in danger of being dismissed, nor does he have any imminent risk of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) issues impacting his aid eligibility.

This student also happens to be highly dependent on financial aid to pay for his living expenses. He has no financial support coming from family, no savings, and is strongly advised not to work which could further jeopardize his chances of success on Step 1. The Associate Dean has indicated that she thinks the student should take leave from the curriculum for intensive study, but she wants to find a way to keep him aid-eligible so that he can get his cost-of-living refund. She comes to you to help think through some options.

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Scenario 2: Unmatched

It's Match Week Monday, and you are not surprised to learn that the student you had been worried about did not match. The student has a marginal academic record, does not have strong step scores, and did not take advice about backing up her first choice of a very competitive specialty. The student remains unmatched at the end of the week after SOAP. What options do you as an institution offer to the student? If you delay graduation for her another year, do you charge tuition during that extended year even though the student has already meet all of the requirements to graduate? What about aid eligibility?

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Scenario 3: The Role of Finances in Student Enrollment Decisions

A student at your institution has performed poorly during her med 1 year. She has gone through your institution's review process, and she is offered the opportunity to repeat the year entirely. This student also happens to be highly dependent on student loans to pay for her tuition, fees, and living expenses. Her poor academic performance excludes her from most scholarships at your institution. She receives a need-based grant of $10,000 but her Cost of Attendance (COA) is close to $80,000. She has no financial support coming from family, no savings, and is strongly advised not to work which could further jeopardize her chances of academic success on this second try. You are concerned that the student is taking on much more debt than her counterparts and there is a very real danger that she will not be successful in the second attempt. What is the role/responsibility of the non-academic administrators in this situation? Should a student's financial circumstances be considered when determining whether or not a restart should be given as an option? Is it appropriate to make assumptions about a student's future borrowing, or does this give rise to the possibility that a loan-dependent student may not be given the same academic opportunities as a student who has access to more financial support?

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Collaboration and Networking

The GSA is a great resource for finding colleagues who share the same questions and issues on their campuses.

✓ ## Reporting

- *"I submit student enrollment to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). NSC then reports to National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). We then get Student Status Confirmation Report (SSCR) errors from NSLDS back through the NSC portal. I don't understand many of these errors, and I do not have access NSLDS to address certain errors. I am wondering how other schools Registrar's/Financial Aid Offices handle these issues".*

✓ ## LCME Site Visit Preparation

- *"I am concerned about the integrity of the data I'm using for my institution's self-study. Does anyone else worry that the data reported by schools may not be entirely consistent"?*

✓ ## Enrollment and Aid Disbursement

- *"We've been hearing some questions around here about non-standard calendars and the disbursement of financial aid. I think it may have come up at the FA specific conference, so it would be great to include the records community this time around".*

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Your GSA Representation

Committee on Student Records _(COSR)_

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Registrar Coordinator
University of Central Florida College of Medicine

Southern Region Representative _November 2018 – November 2021_

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Registrar
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