On Course

A newsletter of the Dartmouth College Registrar's Office

Introduction

Fall term, and during December interim when students vacate campus and faculty engage in research, the Registrar's Office continues to be quite busy behind the scenes, graduating 30 students (congratulations!), testing systems, training staff, configuring new technologies, and working on projects. We had a very busy fall and are excited to share with you some of our efforts.

ORC *New Course Supplement*

In response to suggestions made by faculty members, staff, and students we are excited to soon introduce the *ORC New Course Supplement*. Unlike the *ORC* itself, which is a yearly publication, the *ORC New Course Supplement* will be published by the Registrar's Office on a regular schedule. Each time a new course is approved through the Dartmouth Course Approval Routing System (DCARS), that course description along with its attributes will appear in the *Supplement*. Students will be directed to the *Supplement* along with the *ORC* and *Timetable of Courses* when they elect courses. Be on the lookout for the 2014 –15 *ORC New Course Supplement* soon, which will include courses approved using DCARS.

DCARS soon to be Launched

DCARS—The Dartmouth Course Approval Routing System debuted on December 11 when the Registrar's Office offered training sessions on the new tool to Department and Program Chairs and Administrators. DCARS is Dartmouth's new online system to submit course approvals and updates through the various committee structures; approved courses and changes go directly into Banner. We received very positive feedback in the training sessions, and from the COI. We are now in the process of working with IT to make a few changes. Once those changes are in place, we will notify the campus community that DCARS is open for use.

DCARS is the centerpiece of the Registrar's Office multi-year effort to build a comprehensive curricular management system (see our curricular flow diagram for an overview). With various curricular systems connected there will be more consistency of information for departments and programs. Web services will be talking with Departments and Programs about having newly approved courses will also go directly to department/program websites.

2015 Winter Term On-going Projects

Student Access to Course Assessment

This fall, the Faculty voted to approve student access to course assessment results. We are working with computing services to develop the system; stay tuned for additional information about the project and timeline.

Student Data Warehouse

We continue to make progress on a major reporting initiative, the construction of a data warehouse for student data. With the majority of the architecture work in place, members of the Registrar's Office have begun work on the detailed work to create the reporting structures that will eventually allow for improved reporting.

What else has kept us busy?

'17s next to use Online Major Declaration

The class of 2017 is the second class to declare their majors (and minors) online and we now have the system open. Guides and an Overview to the DegreeWorks Program Planner used by students and departments/programs for online declaration can be accessed from our website.

2014 Ivy Plus Registrar's Annual Meeting

In October Registrars from our Ivy peers gathered at Dartmouth for our annual "Ivy-Plus" meeting. This occasion is always a great way to learn from each other, and discuss each institution's current activities and future plans. Topics ranged from current approaches to technology, new system implementations, MOOCs, training, space utilization, and course numbering. Uncooperative weather did not dampen our enthusiasm as we brought our guests to see the Life Sciences Center, highlighted with a technology demo by Professor Mark McPeek. We had a visit to the Brout Orchid Collection, followed by some time to enjoy the exhibit at the Hood Museum of Art. The evening reception featured a superb performance by the *Dartmouth Dodecaphonics* who captured the Dartmouth spirit in song.

Registrar's Announcements

- Congratulations to Registrar Meredith Braz, elected to Vice President for Leadership and Management Development for the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).

- We are very pleased to announce the promotion of Whitney Banker to Assistant Registrar for Operations. Congratulations Whitney.

- We are also excited to announce our new Service Specialist, Rena Mosteirin '05. Welcome Rena.