

After everyone enjoyed some light refreshments, Kathy Thompson opened the program by pointing out the sample POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE board, explaining that the series changed about every two weeks throughout the term and displayed topical advising information. She noted that the series was also on the Edge's website, and encouraged participants to make suggestions for new postcards.

Fran Sunderland reviewed specifics for upcoming SU98 Priority Registration, May 18-22. She apprised everyone of the change in permissions to on-line (except for overload), indicating that a detailed memo from the registrar should be expected shortly. Fran distributed handouts on ASTRO registration, and showed samples for new forms which are in route to the departments. Kathy shared copies of the ADVISORS' NOTES for SP98 Priority Registration, SP98 PRIORITY REGISTRATION HELP (brochure), and SU98 FEES. As ASTRO is usually fairly busy at each "starting time", Bill English suggested that students might find it helpful to call about 45 minutes after a starting time when the traffic slows. He also shared that early afternoons were good, with phone traffic building later in the day. Students should be counseled to follow ASTRO's directions and avoid miscellaneous pound key entries! There was some concern expressed over students' confusion about their PINs, and following discussion, Kathy agreed to compile a brief, clarifying postcard.

Next, discussion moved to the approaching conversion to semesters! Kathy distributed Q&A handouts on SEMESTER TRANSITION, WHAT'S SEMESTER CORE?, and FA98/SP99 SEMESTER FEES. Many of the academic areas indicated that major track sheets or checksheets for semester curriculum were completed, but some are still works in progress. Tammy McNutt-Scott indicated a need for conversion charts to help advisors with the transition students, which led into a report on the semester catalog supplement project from VP Bompert's Semester Transition Support Committee. The supplement will list semester courses with quarter equivalents and tentative offerings for FA98, SP99, SU99. Although a few departments are lagging behind, most are reviewing final drafts. In addition to departmental reference copies, the plan is to maintain these on the web. Richard Harrison explained the physical education graduation requirements under the conversion, noting that he would work with transition students, but the key elements are a health course, a swimming course, and an activity course. Continuing transition students who currently have these requirements waived (e.g. age at admission or military service) will be able to graduate under these quarter system waivers. (There are no waivers for PE requirements under semesters.) Participants discussed various aspects of core and major requirements for transition students. In general, these students will fall under a similar process as those who change catalog years - transition students may choose to graduate under their current catalog or opt for the semester catalog, but they can not randomly select from both catalogs. Stephanie Carr stressed the need for students to apply now for any anticipated need for financial aid, and to follow through each processing step completely. Classes begin a month earlier this fall with FA98 Priority Registration fee payment due on the last day of SU98 classes, July 31. Active students will priority register via ASTRO for FA98 the week of July 13. FA98 course schedule information will be available before the end of spring term to support planning for those students who may not be enrolled during the summer. Students who plan to be out of the area during priority registration should carefully clear any holds and satisfy any special conditions before departing so they may effectively use ASTRO to secure a fall schedule. Tim Bond gave participants IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS FA98 and explained the modification in the pre-Fall programs. With the PAT renovations, and only 6 weeks for summer term, something different was needed for the early programs. New students who complete their admissions process early may sign up and attend an orientation session in early summer, meet with an advisor by appointment, and then register on ASTRO in July. The programs at the beginning of Fall term will remain as scheduled taking each target group of new students through orientation, advising, and registering in a single day: Monday, August 17 Learning Support/DS; Tuesday, August 18 Transfers; Wednesday, August 19 Entering Freshmen. As a refresher, Kathy pointed out a recent article "Four Paradigms For Academic Advising" by a colleague at Georgia Southern published in the Academic Advising Newsletter (NACADA) and distributed copies of ASU's Advising Roles. There was a general consensus to maintain the Edge meetings just prior to priority registration early advising next year under the semester system.