I think we see the other side of that. We see students who have GPS alerts, and what’s nice for us is we can say have you followed up — “oh yeah, I’ve already followed up with my professor, I’ve talked to him” — and it’s amazing how many will say “I know that I need a 97 or above on the next three quizzes and then ‘this’ on my tests.” So they’ve followed up often with those.

I have to say, you kind of want to reach the people that aren’t in the room, because the really frustrating ones for us are the midterm grades of D’s and F’s where students say “I think I need help but I haven’t talked to him yet” — you know they haven’t gotten a GPS alert, and they say “I’m kind of afraid to talk to him, or I feel it’s a big class” or that type of stuff. We keep telling them you should go in, you should go in — but somehow there is something in that email that makes it better. There’s something that feels personalized, even if it’s a group thing, because we’ve had students come in and say “I’m in a class of 200, I didn’t even know the professor knew my name.” I don’t say well maybe they didn’t, they just clicked — but to the students it has that feel to them. That’s the response we’ve heard maybe seven or eight times. If students literally tell me that “I didn’t know the faculty member even knew who I was, it’s a big class, but they spoke to me” that is really cool. I think that’s a really neat part of it.

The same way Mikhael said that you can get their five GPS alerts and they’re in all five classes and they all say attendance, there’s the opposite of that too, there’s attendance in only one class and no other alerts — now it could be that the other people just haven’t used it, but it does give us an opportunity to say “are you just having a rough time getting to that class, why is that,” it does help on the advising side when you see the alerts, because we’ll see they haven’t turned in the paper, sometimes it’ll say, or it’ll say you were doing well up until that last test, or whatever, and that gives us an insight to then help monitor with the students even if there aren’t alerts in their other classes, “Is this going on in other classes, how is this going for you?” I know it’s a really neat piece from the advisor’s side, to be able to do it, and like I said we get the students’ comments back that definitely say they enjoyed hearing it. Many will tell us, especially for the early alerts that went out, we have students that if they were having difficulty in the first couple of weeks, by the time they got the GPS alerts, their midterm grades had already bumped up. They’d say, “Oh I was getting like a D or an F but my midterm grade was already a C because I already met with my professor and had done all that,” so I do think it spawns a student into action, or spurs them into action, faster.