

Academic Policy Committee
Minutes
August 30, 2016

Members present: Sarah Ash, Alton Banks, Marina Bykova, Donna Carver, Jeremiah Feducia, Kerry Havner, Paul Huffman, Sophia Kathariou, Jennifer Kuzma, Chang Nam, Neal Parker, Greg Young

Guests: Martha Wicker, Carrie McLean

Agenda: A discussion of the University Academic Advising Council (UAAC) and the Inter-College Transfer Program

Carrie McLean

The University Academic Advising Council has representation from every college, Registration and Records. Meet to talk about all factors that affect student success, especially as it relates to academic advising.

Have developed university-wide advising syllabus with an official definition of advising, statement of philosophy.

Council has 4 working groups:

1. Policy and models

- Are meeting with representatives in each college to talk about which approaches work best for their population.

2. Assessment

- Have piloted an assessment of advising.

3. Adviser training and development

- Advisers Development workshops on variety of topics, e.g., working with students with academic, mental health issues.
- Academic Academy for new advisers is held 3 times/year (2-day workshop)
- Advisers Roundtable on hot topics, e.g., policies on progress watch/deficiency.

4. Academic adviser career ladder for primary role advisers

- Lose a lot of advisers to other universities with higher pay once they get their training here.
- Have worked with Dean Mike Mullen to create 3 levels of advisers with associated pay increments.

How to best serve students proactively rather than waiting for them to fail. For example:

- How do they make contact and with whom, esp. with first generation students (we have an increasing number).
- High achievers are also at risk. Referred to as a lack of resilience--can't deal with lack of success that they experience when transitioning to college. Need to learn how to ask for/use a tutor, etc.

In general, Academic Advising Service /University College's role is to support advisers across the campus and also to advise students in transition. Also provide feedback on policy recommendations.

Graduate students do walk in (an unmet need for Graduate School); will try to refer to appropriate contact.

Martha Wicker

Update on Academic Advising Services

Work with students in transition.

84% of all students nationally change their major at least once; 70-80% at NCSU.

- Walk-in advising offered every day – 20 minutes/student
- Virtual advising---1,000/year (mostly academic, some personal)
 - Will answer basic questions and then refer students to appropriate people.
- Maintain “Explore Majors and Minors” pages
- Inter-College Transfer Program.
 - For students stuck in major – can't CODA into their desired major
 - Currently about 180 students; ~70% are Engineering; ~20% are Sciences. Stay in ICT for ~ 1year. Are typically sophomores but are some juniors and seniors.
 - Students need information about other possible careers and how to get there.
 - Transfer requirements are not transparent – may really need preferred requirements.

Beginning to track what happens to students in ITC. Do know that they typically out-perform themselves once they leave ITC. Need to give students confidence in their ability to be successful in a major.

We are losing a lot of students who are leaving in good standing – they leave, never come back to NCSU, and never get a degree anywhere else. Much more than those who leave due to poor academic standing.

Discussion:

Importance of getting students out of a major early, but with care taken to be sure that lack of success is not related to gender or other under-represented group issue due to implicit bias on the part of instructors/advisers. May be particular problem for students in STEM.

Also concern expressed re the number of AP credits students can transfer in; may be better for students to “back up” and retake some of the basic classes v. being thrown into higher level courses.