

Undergraduate Advising Council
Thursday, September 19, 2013
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm, 240 Rinker Hall

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 3:32 pm with 24 advisors/guests in attendance.

Minutes from the August meeting were approved and moved for posting to the UAC site.

Advising Certificate Committee – Deb Mayhew announced there are no updates from the committee.

Communications Committee – Kari Ward stated there are new staff members in the Online Business Program and passed around a sheet to update staff changes for the UF Advising website.

Professional Development Committee – Maureen Cox asked advisors that are attending NACADA to be prepared to present a brown bag lunch event regarding a session(s) they attended. She will be contacting everyone who attended after NACADA to set-up these events.

Innovation Academy – Jeff City announced that IA has hired a new Assistant Director – Ayesha Mian. Check out their website for her bio. IA offices have been moved to the Infirmary Building – Room 302 now and Room 321 when offices are completed.

Jeff stated there is a new application for first-year students to complete that asks them to pick Innovation Academy only, Traditional or Innovation Academy or Traditional only. He hopes this will alleviate any confusion for new students.

It is Year Two of the first cohort of IA students and they will be taking ENT3003 (Principles of Entrepreneurship) in the School of Business or EGN4631 (Engineering Entrepreneurship). EGN4631 is for tech-savvy IA students.

Dana Myers asked Jeff to give UAC a list of when IA minor courses are offered. Also, Jeff stated that fall courses for IA students (after IA Fall Connection) must be on an approved list. The course must have AD approval to get on the list. Check with Jeff if you need more details. Jeff also stated that Fall Connection courses do have special IA sections that students must register for in their first fall.

212 new IA students will be starting this spring. IA will be hiring two new advisors in the near future. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is currently dropping courses during Fall Connection but that may transition to department advisors in the future.

Jeff travelled with UF's Admissions Team to meet Guidance Counselors throughout Florida to discuss the IA program. He distributed new brochures, posters and other materials to them. He also gave us some brochures and posters for our use.

Andy made a motion to add Innovation Academy as a voting member of the UAC. Motion carried.

Center for Undergraduate Research – Dr. Anne Donnelly presented information about the Center for Undergraduate Research. The center is now located in the stadium and they will be having an open house when their offices are completed. They have changed their website to make it more freshman-friendly. It is important for students to read all the information on the site, including How to Have an “Unsuccessful” Research Experience. Their new search engine searches faculty web pages to find UF faculty who are doing research in the student's area of interest. They can then meet with that professor to discuss research opportunities. The website also has publishing and presenting research tips. The Center holds a research symposium once a year for students to present their findings and the symposium is open to all students doing research even if they are not getting paid. During the first hour of the symposium students stay with their poster and then during the second hour they look at the other posters (this exposes them to all the presentations).

Anne mentioned that almost every college, except CLAS, Education, and Business, now has research courses that students must register in order to complete research. Zero credit is ok for this course if the student is in other classes. Students have to register through their departments for this course, it is not available through ISIS. Anne stated that students should do some research throughout their degree program. Anne is also presenting a variety of workshops for students including How to Apply to Graduate School, How to get Undergraduate Research, University Scholars – What are they? and more. On Tuesday, October 8th Anne will be presenting a workshop on research for engineering and science majors. She also has a place on their website for grad students and faculty to post if they need help (on the first page of the website) and she plans to improve on this vehicle in the future.

Anne has also started a Facebook group (currently they have over 600 members) to encourage students to do research and to disseminate information about research. Members of this student group will come to events or classes to discuss research opportunities, etc. There are students from all majors in the group. IA students can do research and online options are available, as well. Upcoming events and workshops are listed on their website.

CAD Report – Andy reported that CAD discussed SAR – Self-Reported Academic Record. Students will now go into a new system to add their high school courses (sometimes junior high) themselves to their application. The application is due by November 1st and the self-reported transcripts are due by December 1st to give students ample time to complete them. The self-reported transcripts will be used for admission decisions and then only those transcripts of students offered admission will be verified, saving the Office of Admissions time and money. The system does feed into the common course numbering system and students can add their course level, length, semester term, and final grade in the site. The system also figures out the students weighted GPA. Many universities have started to use SAR

including all California institutions, Rutgers and Illinois. We will be telling all students that their transcripts are going to be verified and if they are dishonest their admission will be resented.

The Office of Admissions has been conducting workshops for underrepresented students and any other special program students to help them navigate the new system. Students will be alerted numerous times that they need to complete their transcripts prior to the deadline. Other Florida institutions will be using this system in the near future. Out of state transcripts must be sent manually. The Admissions staff that was working on freshman admissions in the past will now be working on transfer and graduate school applications will be speed up both of those processes. The computer program we are using is from Rutgers University.

eCampus Rollout – Spring 2014 is the start date for the program. The program is opening the window for lower division transfer students. There are seven majors in the program – Biology, Business, Criminology, Environmental Management, Health Education & Behavior, Psychology and Sport Management.

Andy expressed concern about whether this is a good program for some students. He completed the survey “Is UF Online Right for Me?” with answers that should have directed him to other programs. He got the message “this program could work for you if you changed some things, like time management, etc.”. Andy felt that students should get a list of resources instead of this message. This suggestion will be given to Dr. Mair in the near future.

Kari Ward suggested that a committee be formed to give feedback to the eCampus staff regarding the website. An email will be sent out through the UAC listserv to get interest in the committee. Kari Ward will chair this committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.