

Undergraduate Advising Council Minutes

July 27, 2009

Attendees: *Janna Underhill, Erica Byrnes, Theresa Vernetson, Deborah Mayhew, Dana Myers, Sarah Eberhart, Karen Cody, Ken Foote, Wayne McCormack, Mary Ann Hagler, Rick Bryant, Beth Nahlik, Jeff Citty, Henry Anderson, Janna Underhill, Robin Rossie, Jill Lingard, Lucy DiLeo, Danae Simonsen, Ella Tabares, Isabel Silver, Karen Bray, Regan Garner, Wayne Griffin, Ann Becks, Kari Ward, Vikram Shishodia, Priyanka Raut*

Erica Byrnes began the meeting by recapping UAC achievements from the past year. The mission statement was revamped, as has the membership and the goals of the UAC. The Communications Committee has created a list of members of the advising community. The first newsletter has been created to communicate between meetings and discuss articles. Three new committees were created as part of the Undergraduate Advising Committee. Finally, everyone survived the implementation of minus grades.

Erica then highlighted goals the UAC can look forward to for the upcoming school year. First, there is excitement about the 4th annual workshop focusing on professional development. The committee will discuss best practices from each college's orientation session and the professional development committee is working on new opportunities to promote professional advisor development. Finally, the advising community will get involved with research.

The emphasis of this meeting was on the achievements and updates from the three committees.

Campus Affairs Committee – Jeff Citty, (jcitt@eng.ufl.edu):

The committee has met twice and established their mission, gathered information through a survey, discussed activities advisors can get involved with on campus, and discussed advisor involvement through career showcase and WOW.

Cynthia Sain and Farouk Dey proposed a partnership between the advising community and the CRC. The idea came about as a way to promote campus wide involvement in the career showcase. The first idea presented was to increase advisor volunteers as resume critiquers during the week before showcase (a max of two hours of resume critiques per advisor at the CRC). There are many students who visit the CRC at the end of the week before showcase, and having additional volunteers then would be very helpful. Another discussion was to have advisors attend showcase and provide support to students. Many advisors are already attending showcase to help their students, make contacts with recruiters, establish corporate relations, and recruit speakers. Farouk and Cynthia suggested formalizing attendance by having advisors stationed at the corner tables for an hour to tell students where to go, meet recruiters and be there for support and advice. Discussion ensued about matching advisor specialties to technical and nontechnical days. As a bonus for doing this, advisors can pick a recruiter to have lunch with. Farouk will send an email out to the council; training will be available for volunteers.

The CRC has recently visited many companies and found out that companies still plan to come to showcase and recruit during this tough economic time but they are afraid students are anticipating a decrease in job availability, which may push them to attend graduate school. The CRC did a survey which reported that 54% of students are planning to attend graduate school. Advisors should encourage students to be aggressive and look for jobs. The Princeton Review ranked UF's CRC #1 in the country!

Regan Garner (member of the Campus Affairs Committee) proposed that advisors host a WOW event that focuses on introducing the concept of advising to students. This will include tabling September 1 from 10-3 on the North lawn of the Reitz Union with 2 or 3 advisors per hour to educate students on general advising.

Jeff Citty spoke about the survey results. The first part of the survey highlighted the importance of understanding student's knowledge of graduate program resources to be able to help students in the future before they get to grad school. The second part of the survey covered which presidential committees advisors feel are important to serve on.

Professional Development Committee - Glenn Kepic, (gkepic@advising.ufl.edu):

Erica spoke in the absence of Glenn. The Fourth annual advisor workshop will be September 11 in the Reitz Union. This function received administrative support to close down offices for the day. A lot of data was produced from the survey which assessed advisor's needs on professional development and this information will be condensed and distributed in the near future.

Communications Committee – Kari Ward, (kari.ward@cba.ufl.edu):

Kari announced the first blog/electronic newsletter came out and she encouraged all members to subscribe to the blog. Jill Lingard will be editing the next issue. Robin Rossie joined the committee and will be writing an article on legislative updates for the next edition. The committee encourages comments and dialog on the blog. Ella Tabares and Danae Simonsen will create a Facebook advisor group for social community building. The UF advising website by college and school has been created and broken down into decentralized, centralized, and a combination of both.

Follow up topics:

At the next meeting, the committee will go over their preview sessions and should come prepared to discuss: (1) their goals and learning outcomes of the session, as well as (2) the content of their session. This will help Ann Becks plan for the next Preview, and ensure that every college has access to the best Preview information available.

Announcements:

Ann Becks spoke about Navigating the Swamp and the author from the Common Reading Program. There are still First Year Florida sessions available to teach. Family Online Chat, open to all UF family members, is on the NSP website and the first chat will be about transitioning students through their first semester. The amount of students coming in for summer was above the predicted number but the total amount of students for summer and fall (when combined) is on target (6400).

The College of Engineering welcomes a new Dean, Dr. Cammy Abernathy. They are one of the few College of Engineering in the country that has a women Dean.

The Honors program has a new director, Dr. Kevin Knudson.

Continuing Education is opening two online economic classes in the Fall term.

There is not an enforced CGS prerequisite however it is listed in the catalog as requiring MAC1147.

No new information about the leadership minor was available, but it is finalized for the fall and Jana Underhill will look into it for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be August 31, 2009 in Stuzin Hall rm. 200, 3:00-5:00pm.