

Academic Advising Council – Activity Summary through 2010-11

Charge element 1: The purpose of the Academic Advising Council is to evaluate the administration and delivery of advising services to all students at Missouri State University and to make recommendations for improvements.

Actions

- Reviewed CAS guidelines for academic advising programs to direct initial conversations about advising practice at Missouri State University
- Conducted a Student Satisfaction with Academic Advising Survey in COM 115 classes and communicated those results to attendees of the February 2011 Academic Administrators Assembly and in email communications to all Department Heads and Advisement Center directors and coordinators
- Sent the Council Chair to the National Academic Advising Association's Assessment Institute in February 2011 to lay groundwork for establishing ongoing campus-wide assessment of academic advising
- **Future focus** – Through collaboration with departments and offices across the University, we will work during 2011-2012 to build a plan for ongoing, campus-wide assessment of academic advising (with aims to implement an initial phase of the assessment process between spring 2012 and spring 2013). The envisioned assessment plan will extend beyond evaluation of student satisfaction by focusing both on advising process/delivery outcomes *and* student learning outcomes.

Charge element 2: The Council will identify current advising practices that are successful and encourage those practices among more advisors.

Actions

- Developed Best Practice documents for individual advisors and advisement centers
- Maintain continuous dissemination of Best Practice information in Master Advisor Training and through the Academic Advisement Center website
- Presented Best Practices information to attendees of the February 2011 Academic Administrators Assembly meeting
- **Future focus** – We will incorporate these established Best Practices in development of the campus-wide advising assessment plan.

Charge element 3: The Academic Advising Council will work to enhance consistency and quality within the advising system and support student development initiatives.

Actions

- Met with representatives from Student Government, Office of the Registrar, Student Orientation and Registration, and Management Information Services to discuss implementation of a course scheduling tool to replace the trial schedule feature eliminated with the University's move to Banner; identified *College Scheduler* as a robust and viable option; worked with the groups mentioned above for approval by Dr. Cofer to adopt *College Scheduler* (which will assist students and advisors to efficiently build effective schedules, allowing more time again for developmental academic advising)
- Met with representatives from Enrollment Services, Office of the Registrar, and Financial Services to extend the length of Early Registration to make more appointment slots available for students during the Early Registration period (based on our understanding that student perceptions of advisor availability are related to their perceptions of advising quality)

- **Future focus** – As with any effective assessment process, results will be used to support continuation of effective processes, to enhance processes needing improvement, and to recommended implementation of new, needed processes.

Charge element 4: (Added June 2010) The Academic Advising Council is available for consultation as policy decisions are made that affect academic advising practice at Missouri State University.

Actions

- Met with representatives from Enrollment Services to discuss how advising may be impacted by elimination of the paper catalog
- Met with representatives from Financial Aid to discuss advisor participation in Satisfactory Academic Progress student appeals
- **Future focus** – We will maintain availability to consult with campus groups regarding processes and policies that affect the quality of academic advising.