

Report for the Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee [UAAC]

May 7, 2015

In this, our second year of existence, we have evolved from our first year task of defining who we are and what we should be doing to our current task of determining how to best accomplish our list of goals. To that end, we have divided into three separate but related subcommittees. We then meet as a larger body once a month to share where we are in each subcommittee's process and to determine what we need to do as a full committee.

Below is the current status of each subcommittee's work:

ADVISOR SUPPORT subcommittee

This subcommittee is working on a voluntary Sakai-based training program for advisors. The group is currently creating assessment tools for each module in the training sequence. Members of this subcommittee have tested the site and improved its design over the year as a result of their experiences with it.

The site could be open to anyone interested, with an opportunity in the site's design for a visitor to select which topics to visit; however, the provost's office is looking to assist the UAAC committee in creating incentives for those who choose to register for the full training program, going through all modules of the site. The plan is to create a beta test group for this training site soon.

The UAAC would like to acknowledge the special assistance Shiao-Lien Yang has provided in helping with the inevitable troubleshooting that comes with such a project. She has put a great deal of time into the technical side of the project.

WORKLOAD subcommittee

This subcommittee is currently focusing its efforts on equitable and excellent provision of advisement in all forms throughout the undergraduate experience, whether that advising comes from faculty advisors, professional advisors or a hybrid model. In order to best determine the needs of the university community, the subcommittee has designed a survey to obtain information on the current status of advising across colleges. The group is in the process of finalizing the survey, which will then be piloted in Engineering and English over the Summer. The current plan is to have the survey ready for full launch first thing in the Fall semester.

MODELS AND PRACTICES subcommittee

The Models and Practices subcommittee has also been working on a survey. The idea is to distribute this survey to students, faculty, department chairs and deans in order to determine how people in our community perceive the current advising model and what resources might be needed in order to provide better advising.

UAAC is acutely aware of “survey fatigue.” Please note that the distribution list is different for the two planned surveys, and that there will be space between the releases of the two surveys. The Workload Subcommittee survey will go out first, because the basic information it is designed to elicit is likely to inform the questions in the Models and Practices survey.

Mark Conley, Chair
Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee