

**Report for the Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee [UAAC]  
May 4, 2017**

In our fourth year of existence, we have focused on redefining the committee's goals and determining the potential future path of the work of this committee.

The suggested rewording of the Committee's goals reads:

**4.30 The Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee (UAAC)** is an oversight committee that shall be responsible for the development and improvement of University-wide advisement, ensuring that all academic advisors should be informed and trained in best practices in advising, as well as in the University's academic requirements. The committee shall also facilitate assessment of university-wide advising and bring policy recommendations to the Faculty Senate on matters pertaining to advising across the University from admission to graduation.

In this, there are two sub-committees at work:

**ADVISOR SUPPORT AND TRAINING subcommittee**

This subcommittee implemented the voluntary Master Advisor Education program that benefits both faculty and students. All faculty members who complete this program receive a letter of recognition that will be copied to their department chair and the Provost's office for their tenure & promotion file. The Provost's office will also award a \$500.00 scholarship in the faculty member's name to a student of their choice. This program provides an opportunity for faculty members to learn more about how they can best help our students to navigate the University and their academic plans. It will also allow faculty personally to reward a student in need.

This program is designed to educate advisors and administrators at all levels. Faculty (including Lecturers and Part-time faculty), chairs and professional advisors may choose to complete the program in its entirety to achieve the URI "Master Advisor" designation. This requires completion of four core online modules (with completed quizzes), and one "learner's choice option" (LCO) within one calendar year. Learner's Choice Options might include a session on Starfish Training, General Education Training, or Dealing with Disruptive Students. Topics are updated frequently.

Twenty-two (22) full or part time advisors have completed the program since the Fall 2015 launch. The upcoming plans for the 2018 Academic year include upgrading to the new version of Sakai and adding "Mental Health First Aid" by newly certified facilitators from URI. The support of the UAAC committee will also

be enlisted to market the Master Advisor Program with the goal of achieving more faculty and chair participation.

### **MODELS AND PRACTICES /WORKLOAD subcommittee**

The goal of this subcommittee is to focus 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. Each college defines workload issues and administers advising assignments, with responsibility articulated and measured so that it can be rewarded.

In order to best determine the needs of the university community, the subcommittee designed a survey to obtain information on the current status of advising across colleges. This survey was distributed to department chairs and deans in order to better understand the current advising models in use and what resources might be needed in order to best improve advising. The survey was emailed in Spring 2016 and repeated in Fall 2017.

We received a total of fifteen responses, eight of which were from departments in the College of Arts & Sciences. This pilot served to confirm that the committee can gather useful data, and it is suggested that next year's plan should move forward with a constructive, controlled, project that will add and align students' advising experiences into the results. By triangulating these results, the committee hopes to begin to build a knowledge base of how advising is functioning at the university from the multiple perspectives of all users of the advising system.

As a final comment, this committee moved forward this year with seven of the sixteen seats unfilled. Of the nine filled seats, faculty members filled seven and administrators filled two seats. It is hoped that, going forward, this committee will have full faculty membership in order to best represent the advising needs and concerns across the University.

### Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee

Carolyn Betensky, ENG  
 G. Faye Boudreaux-Bartels, ELE  
 Sandy Hicks, EDC  
 Joanna Norris, BIO  
 Rebecca Romanow, FLM, Chair  
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