

Advisors' Council

August 27, 2014, 8:45 a.m.

UC Chickamauga

Members attending: April Anderson, Laura Bass, Debbie Bell, Nicole Brown, Angelique Cook, Donna Cooper, Jessica Darsey, Angela Google, Jan Gould, Stacie Grisham, Jamie Harvey, Elizabeth Johnson, Nicole Jones, Rebecca Littleton, Kayla McAuliffe, Joseph McCauley, Gary McDonald, Deardra McGee, Amber Noblit, Nikki Ownby, Sevan Paris, Rhonda Reynolds, Mary Roland, Brian Tucker, Lindsey Wendorf, Marjorie Whiteside.

Others in attendance: Yancy Freeman.

Call to order: Elizabeth Johnson at 8:50 a.m.

1. Welcome back

2. Introduction of New Professional Advisors

Amber Noblit, Outreach Coordinator, welcomed and introduced the new professional advisors to Advisors' Council. Nicole Jones, Nicole Brown, Joseph McCauley, and Angelique Cook each introduced themselves and told the group a little about themselves and what they are doing in their new positions.

3. Review Changes to Council Report

Elizabeth Johnson, Chair, presented the changes that were made to the Advisors' Council Report. The main change occurred in the student performance outcomes. After talking with the assessment committee, it was agreed that these outcomes needed to be changed to measurable criteria.

4. Vote on Bylaws

Elizabeth Johnson presented and reviewed the Advisors' Council Bylaws.

Jessica Darsey said she did not agree with number two, under the membership category. She said that with the language it makes it seem that new professional advisors have the choice to join the council and that it is not mandatory. Yancy Freeman answered to this and said that it is the expectation of all professional advisors to be required to attend.

Laura Bass motioned the approval of the bylaws.

Jessica Darsey seconded.

5. Discuss Fall Calendar

Amber Noblit announced upcoming presentations during advisors' council. Athletics and the DRC will present on September 17th. Our October meeting will have presentations by Mary Roland, with Support Services and Joe Wiram and Squoia Holmes, with Veteran Affairs. The counseling center will present in November.

6. Share Advisement Website

Laura Bass, Technology Coordinator, introduced the new advisement website. This will be the landing page for all of advisement. Laura asked that everyone send her an email with any recommendations for the new website, which is a work in progress. Mary Roland asked if there would be a link to the new complete college advisor under the "senior year" tab. Laura answered, "Yes, email me the link."

Marjorie Whiteside asked if there will be a link to every department. Laura answered, "Yes, but so many departments do not have advisement information at this point."

7. Assessment Update

Stacie Grisham, Enrollment Services Liaison, shared updates from the assessment committee. This committee started work a year ago addressing five areas of improvement: advisor expectations, student learning outcomes, goals, and assessment. Stacie thanked all of those involved with the assessment team. They have been meeting weekly throughout the summer and are in the final stages of drafting the survey to be sent to the students. The plan is to have this survey ready by the next meeting for the council to review. The assessment team is looking for recruits for anyone on the council that may have an interest in joining.

Jessica Darsey asked if the survey would be distributed to all classes and if it would be distributed through their MyMocsNet account. Stacie responded, "Yes."

Amber Noblit asked if the survey was going out in the fall or spring. Stacie responded, "The plan is to get it out this fall during peak advisement time, before registration."

8. Training Committee

Elizabeth Johnson then talked about the creation of a training committee. Members of CASS did a crash course for the five new professional advisors this summer.

Elizabeth is asking for volunteers to join this committee. Committee members will help with the creation of training materials and the execution of training faculty and staff. The plan is to have four training sessions leading up to fall break this semester.

9. Advisor Mentor Volunteers

Lindsey Wendorf, Secretary, asked the council for volunteers to participate in the mentor program. The mentor program will be for new faculty and staff members seeking a mentor on campus. Those interested should email Lindsey.

10. Other Business

Yancy Freeman, Assistant Provost for Enrollment Services, thanked the council for all of the work that has been done. He is looking for bigger and better things this coming year from the council. Yancy then gave the council several campus updates. As of today, enrollment was at 11,679, which is an increase from last year. 920 students were dropped for non-payment this semester.

Gary McDonald asked if anyone had looked into why there were so many drops. Yancy replied with, "That is something that we are looking into. For example, 245 students had enough financial aid to pay for school, but did not confirm their classes. 260 students received financial aid, but did not have enough funds to pay fees." Yancy then discussed retention rates. UTC's retention rate is currently at 70.3%, which is a one percent increase. Yancy wants UTC to be at 80%. The next update that was discussed was the EAB tool. This is a new advisement system that UTC will be implementing early this fall.

Nikki Ownby asked if the system will include only UTC information or both UTC and transfer work. EAB will include UTC and transfer courses. It also will show how many times a student has repeated or withdrawn from a course.

Rebecca Littleton asked if the tool had any predictability for graduate school. The response was, "As of right now, no."

New this semester, is the no adds allowed in the second week of the semester. This was because of the DFW rate for students adding a course during the second week. The provost made this decision about no adds during the second week.

Alternate pins are now available to students through their MyMocsNet. They become available the day after the last day to add a course.

Angelique Cook asked if there were any concerns with making the pins available.

Yancy explained that there were so many students that needed to drop courses in the past and could not find their advisors to get their alternate pins. This new system will prevent students from having to track down their advisors.

Angelique then asked if departments would be able to opt out of this. Yancy said that this would be very difficult. He is looking for input from the council. We will know if things like this are working.

Jessica Darsey brought up overrides during the second week of school. She explained that everyone's override process is different. She asked if there had been any thought in making the process the same for all departments. Yancy responded with, "This is something that the council can bring forward to tackle as a group."

Elizabeth Johnson then asked if there were any questions.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.