

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC AND CAREER ADVISING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 1992-1993
July 25, 1993

The Academic and Career Advising Committee consisted of the following members during the academic year 1992-1993: Barbara Mabee (Chair), Virginia Allen (Director of Academic Services); Wilma Bledsoe (Vice-President for Student Affairs; Carol Crum (Assistant Director of Academic Services); Jan Elvekrog, Administrative Assistant, Arts & Sciences Advising); Edward Haworth Hoepfner (English); Andrea Kozak (Student Congress, second semester--replacement for Tina Tomasin from Student Congress); Angela Rankins (Advising Coordinator, Academic Services); Robert Stern (Chemistry); Robert Thomas (Director, Placement & Career Services); Ron Yates (Biological Sciences, second semester--replacement for Diane Wilson, Nursing, on Sabbatical Leave); and Martha Zingo (Political Science).

The committee saw as its first task to follow up on the study that last year's committee members had begun concerning career advising programs at Oakland University. Their primary recommendations had been to coordinate or reorganize the four different locations for career advising services and to address the need for better dissemination of information to faculty and students regarding available services for students in selecting fields of study.

Ms. Mabee, Mr. Stern and Ms. Wilson arranged separate meetings with Mr. Horwitz and Ms. Bledsoe regarding the ACAC concerns about career advising as identified by the subcommittee in 1991-1992. Both Mr. Horwitz and Ms. Bledsoe indicated that budgetary constraints would not allow at this point a new position. However, each of them indicated that it was President Packard's desire to consolidate in the next calendar year student support services in a single location, most likely North Foundation Hall. At the meeting with Mr. Horwitz, he requested that the committee poll Oakland juniors and seniors in order to assess student satisfaction with the current structure. The committee constructed a plan to accomplish this survey: Oakland juniors and seniors from all the colleges were to be identified from the subject pool. A subcommittee was formed to devise suitable questions and logistics for the administering and tabulating of the survey. With Robert Stern as chair and Carol Crum, Bob Thomas, Edward Haworth Hoepfner, Andrea Kozak as members, the subcommittee devised an extensive questionnaire, which was discussed and modified by the committee. In the Winter term, instructors from eleven rather large classes, representing all colleges and consisting predominantly of juniors and seniors at Oakland University, received the survey packets with an accompanying letter by Ron Horwitz urging instructors to cooperate with the committee so that an improved career advising system can be created. Ten instructors from various departments and colleges participated in the survey: CHM, BIO, NRS, PT, SCN, EGL, ECN, ENG, SOC, PSY.

The committee met several times (with additional student help from the University Student Congress) to analyze the data. The following points have been isolated from the data so far:

1. The survey has captured opinions from a reasonable sample of juniors and seniors.
2. The heavy preponderance of women probably reflects higher attendance rates on the part of Oakland women.
3. All of the career advising options at Oakland are used to some extent: department or school adviser; advisers and computers in the Career Resource Center in Academic Services (121 NFH); Placement and Career Services Office (275 Vandenberg); materials on careers in Kresge Library, Psychological Services (Graham Health Center); Career Day on Campus.
4. The adviser system in both departments and schools is the most heavily used of all the possible choices.
5. Student satisfaction with advisers seems to be quite high.
6. All of the other options appear to be working for our students, with the possible exception of the services offered at Psychological Services (the only location that charges students - on a sliding scale).
7. Individual reports from students hint that they want more personal attention, and that they need more information about the availability of career advising.

In 1993-94, the committee plans to complete analysis of the data contained in the Career Advising Questionnaire. It then may consider preparing a handbook for advisers and discussing the possibility of an orientation course which would address career issues. A central location for career services might also be explored further.

The new chair of the committee, R. L. Stern, and I are in agreement that the move of certain segments of student services into North Foundation Hall is a healthy beginning to a solution to advising problems at Oakland University.

Barbara Mabee
Associate Professor of German