

Academic and Career Advising Committee

Annual Report

2001-2002

Members: Darlene Schott-Baer, Nursing (Chair), Steve Wright-Mathematics and Statistics, Ken York-SBA, Anne Becker-Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism, Constantine Kontoghiorghes-Education and Human Resources, Jennifer Gilroy-AP representative, Pat Bennet-AP representative, Rachel Rybicki-student representative, Carole Crum-Dir. General Studies, Nancy Schmitz- Dir. Of Advising Resource Center, Glenn McIntosh-Asst. V.P. for Student Affairs

Number of meetings: Two meetings were held during this academic year, one in fall semester and one in winter.

Review of membership: The membership of the committee was reviewed in light of the committee's charge. Members thought there was adequate representation from essential departments.

Review of charge to the committee: After reviewing the annual report form spring 2001 and the committee charge the members present thought the committee should continue to offer senate support to the advising group.

Advising Task Force: Discussion centered on the activities of the advising task force chaired by Susan Awbry. While this committee is not involved with the task force, members present are aware of its activities to address accreditation concerns within advising. The chair contacted Susan and offered assistance from this committee in meeting the objectives of the task force.

Retention: Members expressed the concern that upper division advising occurs within the departments and that little is available to the freshman and sophomore students who are uncertain about a major. Students who have not yet declared a major receive assistance from the Advising Resource Center and those with majors receive assistance from the professional advisors within the schools or the College. However, the "semi-decided" (chair's label) students frequently fall through the cracks. These are students who while they have declared a major are not totally committed to their choice. Members thought that more intensive contact during these early years could increase retention. It was thought that the changes being proposed by the Advising Task Force may improve the advising services offered to students during their early years in college.

Advising website: Pat Bennett requested the support of the committee as updates are made in the advising website. The goal is to make the site more user friendly with links to other essential OU sites. Members present communicated their support for the improvements.

Submitted by: Darlene Schott-Baer, Chair

