

**Student Academic Support Committee
Executive Summary of Annual Report 2005-2006**

Submitted by Mohammad S. Bazaz, Chair

Membership:

- Faculty:** Mohammed Bazaz (School of Business Administration) *Chair*, Scott Crabill (Rhetoric, Communication & Journalism), Fran Mueser (Spanish), Joel Russell (Chemistry), and Joseph Shively (Music).
- Ex-Officio:** Steve Shablin, Provost Office, Mary Beth Snyder (Vice President for Student Affairs), Cindy Hermsen (Director Financial Aid), Sarah Mullin (Advising Representative), Glen McIntosh (Dean of Student), and Michael McGuinness (OU Student Body President).

The Student Academic Success Committee has six faculty members one of whom, Judith Hovey (Nursing) resigned from the beginning and was not replaced. Members of the committee serve staggered three-year terms. Other members of the committee consist of the President of Student Congress and four *ex officio* non-voting members: Vice President for Academic Affairs or designee, Vice President for Student Affairs or designee, Dean of Students or designee, and Professional Advisers' Council designee. The objective of SASC is to promote the academic success of students by considering, evaluating, and recommending policies and procedures in the areas of advising, financial aid, registration, admissions, student life, career development, and any other areas of student academic interest that may be brought before it.

For 2005-2006 academic year, The Student Academic Support Committee held seven monthly meetings (September 2005- April 2006). At these meetings, the following student related issues were discussed:

- Mission Statement for Academic Advising
- Allocation of learning spaces
- Learning impact and frequency of class meeting: two-days vs. three-days/week class meetings.
- Advance (at least one year) Course Scheduling
- Moving of Student's fall registration from May to April for student convenience.
- Several other issues presented by OU Financial Aid office.

Serious discussions ensued on the above issues and following items were achieved:

1. The mission statement of OU Academic Advising was revised several times and finally was approved.
2. The following resolution on advanced class scheduling was prepared in our meeting on October 12, 2005 and submitted to the provost for action:

Whereas, students could better plan their class and work schedules, advisors could better advise students on class schedules, faculty could

better plan and schedule their research and service duties, and the registrar could better optimize classroom scheduling if class schedules were established with a one year lead time;

Be it resolved, that all academic units be required to propose a schedule for classes each term for the subsequent term in the next academic year. Once approved by the administration every effort should be made to offer each class as scheduled a year in advance.

Comment: This resolution calls for class schedules to be known by the end of each term for the following four terms. The fourth term schedule would be added on a rolling basis. The resolution leaves the time during each term for schedules to be submitted up to the administration. The resolution does not address the issue of when students would be allowed to register for scheduled classes nor when tuition payments for classes are due. The committee is currently investigating with the administration both the registration and billing cycle issues.

3. The result of the study on learning impact and frequency of class meeting: two-days vs. three-days/week class meetings along with three different alternative models for course offerings were presented to the Provost.
4. Moving of students' fall registration from May to April was approved by the committee members and recommended to the OU registration office for action.
5. It was proposed that spring and summer terms be combined as one term, however maintaining the delineation of the 7 week term by structuring the semester as first half and second half courses. A discussion ensued regarding the benefits this would have for students, in particular their ability to procure funding for the full term as opposed to selecting funding for either one semester or the other. The committee agreed that from an administrative point of view within the Financial Aid Office only, these two terms may be combined internally. This, of course, would have no effect on other university units.

Based on the recommendation 2 & 3 above, the Provost Office through senate steering committee has created a task force to diligently look into the above two issues and make recommendation to the OU administration.