

**SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND CAREER ADVISING
1996-97**

Committee Accomplishments

Given the expansion of computerization on campus and with the support of President Russi, the Committee's **first area of initiative** was to provide access to academic and career advising on the internet. The Committee devoted a good portion of its agenda in the academic year to the creation and implementation of an **Advising Home Page (AHP)**. The AHP is linked to the OU home page as well as to individual colleges, schools and departments. The AHP contains general academic and career advising information and provides links for students and other users to obtain more specific advising within their areas of interest. The AHP was officially launched in May 1997. It is accessible from the OU home page via the "Campus Life and Services" and "Academics" icons.

A **second area** addressed by the Committee during 1996-97 was the **importance of providing adequate career advising** for all students, both undecided majors and those already enrolled in their majors. Committee members researched information about student involvement with existing student organizations and examined ways to increase the participation of undecided students in academic and career advising events. Networking opportunities with OU alumni and professionals working in the field were also discussed. It was agreed that the Committee might facilitate the work of student organizations by communicating what works with some groups to the faculty advisers of less active groups. It was also agreed that communication of significant student events might be improved by having a "master calendar" of student meetings and events available at the start of each term and by increasing advertising (including electronic signs) in areas where students most often congregate.

Finally, the Committee examined ways in which to improve advising to students just entering the university as well as those who remain undecided. It was noted that a student Cohort program is underway that places incoming students in groups of 25 to receive advising and take courses together. Most of the advising is academic, and it was felt that it might be possible to include some career planning as well. Some of the students take COM 101 (1 credit course with a career component included), and next year's Committee might want to review the results of the Cohort program to determine whether making COM 101 a required (or recommended) course for students would be helpful. In addition, it was noted that HRD 264 (2 credit career exploration course) has not been offered in several years, and this might also be a useful class for undecided majors.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Theisen, Chair