

## **Senate's Academic Advising Committee Report 2014-2015**

As the Senate's Academic Advising Committee was preparing to realize its charge for the 2014-15 academic year, the University embarked upon a comprehensive campus-wide review process of all aspects of undergraduate advising. That initiative was inspired by a set of reform recommendations developed by deans of the undergraduate colleges in response to President Capilouto's emphasis on improving student success. The Deans' report was then evaluated by attendees of a hastily organized ad hoc meeting of advisors (mostly professional but with some faculty advisors present), professional staff, and administrators at the beginning of January 2015. Members of the Senate's Academic Advising Committee were invited to attend that meeting but most were unable to do so. The session generated a summary report that describes a large and diverse set of ideas for improving campus-wide advising. At that meeting a plan was developed for next steps, and joint leadership for the initiative was assigned to Dean Mark Kornbluh (representing deans of undergraduate colleges) and Associate Provost Ben Withers (representing central administration). Subsequently, a process implementation team was assembled in addition to Dean Kornbluh and Associate Provost Withers expanded to include the following: (1) the Chair of the Senate's Academic Advising Committee, (2) the Advising Leadership Team (professional advisors representing each undergraduate college), and associate college deans with responsibility for administration of undergraduate education.

A second all-day meeting was held in March 2015 with the goals of reviewing ideas from the first retreat and development of a more focused plan for reforming and improving all aspects of advising at UK. Attendees included professional and faculty advisors as well as administrators. Both the Chair of the Senate Council and the Chair of the Senate's Academic Advising Committee participated, as did newly appointed Provost Tim Tracy. The meeting generated considerable feedback on ways to improve advising as well as recommendations for the processes to be used to move the initiative forward. Importantly, it was decided that a critical next phase of the process should be a retreat specifically intended for faculty advisors, which is now scheduled for early May 2015. The goal will be to review with faculty attendees all recommendations and concerns about the advising process with particular attention on faculty roles.

At this point the reform process remains fluid, and there is no clear action recommended by the Senate's Academic Advising Committee. We anticipate, however, the need for the Senate to review those elements of the reform process that emerge over the coming months, particularly those that entail educational policy that falls under the purview of the Senate. Accordingly, we recommend the following action plan for the 2015-16 academic year:

- Establish as early as possible a full roster of members of the Senates Academic Advising Committee. The Committee this year did not have the full complement of members representing faculty, advisors, and students.
- Review all recommendations regarding changes to the advising process emanating from the recent reform initiative.
- Determine which recommendations require action by the University Senate and draft appropriate recommendations to be considered by the Senate Council.
- In collaboration with appropriate offices and individuals (e.g., Analytics & Technologies, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Campus Advising Leadership Team, and administrative leaders of undergraduate colleges) develop a brief survey of student attitudes toward advising to be administered early in the fall 2015 semester. Based on data from the survey, develop additional recommendations for changing advising policies for review by the Senate Council.
- Discuss the feasibility and value of creating an annual process for evaluating advising and advisors similar to the current teacher evaluation process.
- Present a detailed summary report to the University Senate that describes the status of reform efforts in the context of the University Strategic Plan.

#### Senate's Academic Advising Committee

- Phil Kraemer, Chair
- Mirosław Truszczynski, '17
- Samantha Dunn, '15 (Health Sciences, student)
- Jason Horgler, '15 (Advising Network representative)
- Suanne Early, '16 (Advising Network representative)
- Jennifer Ellis, '17 (Advising Network representative)
- Ben Withers, Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, *ex officio*