

Motion to establish a university-wide advising policy
May 12, 2008
First Reading

Whereas: “Ohio University cultivates a strong student-faculty advising system because we know the important role faculty can play for students, not just as advisors about courses and majors, but as mentors who introduce student to the richness of university life and thereby help lead them to successful, satisfying lives. We know that good advising relies on both good will and good information.”¹

Whereas: some colleges, departments and schools have policies and procedures in place with regard to advising, not all do, and neither does the faculty handbook contain anything on advising expectations for advisors or their advisees.

Faculty Senate resolves: that the faculty handbook be changed as follows:

Insert a New Section D and renumber all subsequent sections.

D. Advising

Advising is a multifaceted process, ranging from assisting students in understanding the technical requirements for graduation in their chosen major, to mentoring students so that they can achieve their full potential at Ohio University and after they graduate, and it will be recognized and rewarded.

Successful advising is an essential academic activity, requiring effort by both the advisor and the advisee. Both advisor and advisee need to know what is expected of them.

Faculty in each department/school will determine the advising process and the personnel appropriate for that discipline such that:

- that there are sufficient advising resources available to advise all students in a timely manner;
- that the Faculty’s policy and philosophy on advising is clear and communicated to their students and their advisors;
- that the quality of advising is evaluated from both the advisee and advisor’s perspective;
- that advising is recognized in the workload of the advisors and is rewarded;
- and that advisors are trained in the curricular requirements relevant to the programs of their advisees.

¹ Faculty Advising and Referral Manual, Ohio University 2006

Faculty Senate further resolves that: a University wide policy should be initiated by the Provost that contains the following points

Principles to ensure high quality advising at Ohio University.

- Advisees and Advisors need to know what is expected of them
- The University needs to ensure that advising policies are clearly known, and followed.
- Advising is a multifaceted process. It ranges from ensuring students understand the technical requirements for graduation in their chosen major through to mentoring students to ensure that they achieve their full potential at Ohio University and after they graduate.
- Technical advising may be done by professional advisors but this needs to be overseen by faculty to ensure consistency with the curricular objectives.
- Colleges, Departments, and Schools need to each establish a policy for ensuring that high quality advising is received by all students and that advisors have adequate resources and are rewarded for their efforts.

Colleges, Regional Campuses, and Life Long Learning will ensure:

- that all students can know the name of their advisor either at pre-college or within one week of the start of their first course at Ohio University;
- that advising is evaluated and that the value of advising is recognized in the annual evaluation of individual advisors;
- that any time limits on their undecided majors are publicized and widely known by their students;
- that all their students have mentors that are able to aid them in their programs of study at Ohio University and in what they plan to do after they have graduated

Departments, Schools and others responsible for the provision of advisers will ensure that:

- sufficient number of advisers are available to advise all students in a timely manner;
- their policy and philosophy on advising is clear and communicated to their students and their advisors;
- they evaluate the quality of advising from both the advisee and advisor's perspective;
- advising is recognized in the workload of the advisors and is rewarded;
- advisors are trained in the curricular requirements relevant to the programs of their advisees

Students as advisees will endeavor to:

- communicate their goals and their progress to their advisor;
- be aware of and comply with the University's published academic policies, regulations, and deadlines;

- maintain their own record of which courses they need for their major and when they will try to take them;
- meet with their designated adviser at least once a term;
- be prepared and willing to evaluate their advisers in a thoughtful way;

Advisors will ensure that they:

- receive sufficient training to under take their role and its expectations;
- will answer students questions or help them find someone who can answer them;
- will enable students to plan their program of study at Ohio University;
- will be mentors for their advisees and able to aid them in their programs of study at Ohio University and what they plan to do after they have graduated;