

Academic Advising: Review & Recommendations

Holden Thorp, Dean

College of Arts & Sciences

UNC Board of Trustees

University Affairs Committee, May 21, 2008

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- Stephen Weiss, Professor of Computer Science and committee chair

Good News

- **The system is not broken. It can be stronger and these recommendations focus on ways to improve it**
- **Change doesn't need to wait for recommendations to occur – things are already being improved**

Improvements Underway

Academic Advising Program reorganization:

- Teams have been eliminated; each student is assigned an Adviser
- Personnel structure is being revised
 - Senior Asst. Deans will rep. 3 divisions
 - more positions need to be added (3-6 full-time Advisers plus 1-2 staff support)
- IT position begins June 16, 2008!

Improvements Underway

Software:

- The ERP system includes automated degree-audit process including planning and what-if scenarios (Fall 2010)
- Until then we will continue to rely on paper and GRADS

Undergraduate Bulletin:

- A comprehensive review is underway to make this into the definitive source

Recommendations

Students:

- Take a more active role in the advising process with the assistance of better tools and a trained professional staff

Recommendations

Departments:

- Create an Advising and Evaluation Plan due to the Dean in April 2009
- Audit and revise all documents including the departmental website – due Aug 2009
 - Icons for Gen Ed, advising, requirements
- Become more welcoming (events, etc.)

Recommendations

Academic Advising Program:

- Monitor documents on web and in print
- Conduct training
- Provide a productive and welcoming environment
- Expand the Advising Council to include undergraduates and faculty members

Recommendations

A. Add positions

- Academic Advising Program
- Pre-profession advising program
- Departmental based advisers

B. Evaluate, Evaluate, Evaluate

Timeline

- Fall 2008: Disseminate recommendations; begin to fund and authorize new positions
- Spring 2009: Searches underway, complete review of the Undergraduate Bulletin; advising plans due
- Summer 2009: revise departmental web sites; complete reorganization of AAP, train new department-based advisers
- Fall 2009: Implement first phase of department advising plans (those parts that do not depend on the degree audit system)
- Spring 2010: Evaluate the first year's experience
- Fall 2010: Roll out degree audit system
- Implement the remaining parts of departmental advising plans
- Evaluate the first full year of the new system