

# PROGRESS REPORT

**Working Group Name:** Academic Advising

**Working Group #:** 2

**Chair:** Tim Scott (co-convener Ann Kenimer)

**Date:** March 24, 2022

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## **Update on Actions Taken Since Last Report:**

The Advising Working Group (AAWG) met three times since the prior progress report dated 15 February 2022. Work group activities for each of those meetings are summarized below:

23 February—The work group discussed strategies for leveraging college-centralized undergraduate advising including facilitating college-wide communications, developing and documenting consistent processes, maintaining currency with curricular changes, supporting training and professional advancement opportunities, and fostering workload parity and cross-training. The group also discussed possible deliverables including implementing college-centralized structures across all colleges/campuses, establishing broad university-level undergraduate advising guidelines, and forming an advising coordination group.

9 March—Discussion topics identified during the 9 February meeting were categorized using NACADA (the Global Community for Academic Advising) core competencies, Conceptual, Informational, and Relational, as a general outline for developing university-level guidelines. Subgroups were formed to specifically address the four topics in the Conceptual grouping: 1) advisor training and professional development, 2) advising guiding principles, 3) supporting students who don't know where to go, and 4) strategies for faculty advisors.

23 March—The subgroups formed on 9 March provided updates and solicited input from the AAWG related to their respective tasks. Draft advising guiding principles and a draft advisor training and professional development strategy, were discussed in detail. The related subgroups will use resulting feedback to refine those drafts.

Co-convener Kenimer continues to work with colleges and campuses that have not previously adopted a centralized reporting structure for undergraduate academic advising. The College of Engineering and Galveston campus established internal working groups to define their structure and have provided high-level organizational charts. The College of Science, which will be transitioning into the new College of Arts and Sciences, will adopt the centralized advising structure which is being developed through Task Group 1.

## **Next Major Issue to be Addressed:**

For the next several meetings, the AAWG will continue to consider topics to be included in the university-level undergraduate advising guidelines and develop related content. As needed,

subgroups will be formed or existing on-campus units tasked with developing draft content for specific topics.

**Problems or Barriers Encountered and Solutions Identified:**

Some departments rely heavily on faculty advisors who provide excellent student service and are uniquely well qualified to provide advising related to students' professional preparation. However, as faculty members, the direct reporting lines for these individuals needs to remain in their home department. A subgroup of the AAWG is developing strategies to best leverage the talents and knowledge of faculty advisors within a college-centralized advising structure.

**Deliverables Completed:**

High-level organizational charts for the College of Engineering and Galveston. Two possible organizational charts for advising in the College of Arts and Sciences were developed through Task Group 1.

**Timeline for Completion of Remaining Deliverables:**

University-level undergraduate advising guidelines—September 2022

University undergraduate advising coordination committee—September 2022

University-wide adoption of college-centralized advising—September 2022