

MINUTES

Undergraduate Studies Council

November 21, 2007

11:00-12:30

Present: Jamba, Jaffee, Schwam-Baird, Tanner, Hall, Reedy, Furtwengler, Jones, Butler, Crump, Croft, Perry, Turrin, Roberts

1. The minutes from 10/17/07 were approved.
2. Primary agenda item was the report from the chair of the **“Faculty Advising”** subcommittee. A handout was circulated. Lisa Jamba reported on the procedures used to gather data and research the models employed at other institutions. The proposal was for each academic unit to adopt some type of formalized advising and mentoring program from a list of options.

Some remaining issues involved whether there should be compensation to faculty for particular advising activities, how to disseminate the information to department majors, and the importance of retaining the role of professional advisors.

An extended discussion ensued with various points and counterpoints. Among them were:

- The value of having a designated individual to play the role within each department
- The value of having an “orientation” for majors as an advising mechanism
- The range of departments in terms of size and number of majors and how this might impact a single approach
- The different ways students plan and utilize advising services
- The importance of communicating clearly to students the kind of structure and services that are available

One of the major points raised was the potential limitations in a proposal that allows a wide degree of latitude in the type of advising mechanism used to meet the objective outlined by the subcommittee of a formalized advising and mentoring system in each department. This focused the conversation on the potentially most comprehensive approach of having an “undergraduate coordinator” play the role of department faculty advisor. This resulted in discussion about:

- Selection and training of these individuals
- Incentives and compensation for undergraduate coordinators
- Would faculty advising constitute teaching or service?

- The value of designating a single committed individual versus distribution of advisees across all faculty members in a department
- How to evaluate the advising effectiveness of undergraduate coordinators
- The continuing roles and responsibilities of students in this relationship with a faculty advisor and the use of an “advising syllabus” which is currently developed and used by professional advising units
- Could this model be adopted in a pilot form with selected departments?
- How this faculty advising initiative can be promoted in the context of the UNF mission that emphasized student-centered individualized attention

It was decided that the Faculty Advising subcommittee would refine their proposal in light of the discussion and return with a revised proposal at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25.