

PROGRESS REPORT

Working Group Name: Academic Advising

Working Group #: 2

Chair: Tim Scott

Date: May 4, 2022

Update on Actions Taken Since Last Report:

The Academic Advising Working Group (AAWG) met twice since the prior progress report dated 24 March 2022. Work group activities for those meetings are summarized below:

6 April—The work group heard updates from four sub-groups (advisor training and professional development, advising guiding principles, supporting students who don't know where to go, and strategies for faculty and staff advisors). The group discussed how training and professional development opportunities and requirements might differ for staff and faculty advisors. The group felt that training opportunities should be available to all, but that some training required for staff advisors might be strongly recommended for faculty advisors and be grounded on input from Faculty Senate. However, to maintain consistency across key advising functions, training would be required for both staff and faculty advisors before providing access to related functions in the student management system. Finally, the group discussed establishment of a university-wide, regularly updated web resource for advising information. The Office of Student Success will assume responsibility for development and maintenance of this website.

20 April—The AAWG considered and provided feedback on an updated draft training and professional development plan. The subgroup working on the training plan will incorporate the additional feedback and return with a final draft at the next meeting. The AAWG also reviewed a final draft of the advising guiding principles. The group agreed that the draft guiding principles are ready to be shared with campus constituencies and several AAWG members agreed to present the document to their representative organization. The subgroup on supporting students who don't know opened a discussion on advising-related resources and information in Howdy. Generally, the AAWG felt that information in Howdy was helpful but difficult to navigate and that a more user-friendly interface would be beneficial. In addition, the AAWG felt establishing a triage process for students who need academic assistance and support would be helpful. The Office of Student Success was suggested as a home for this service. Finally, the AAWG initiated discussion of a standing undergraduate academic advising coordination committee. The group will establish a charge for the standing committee and further discuss representation at its next meeting.

Development of college-centralized advising strategies continues in the College of Engineering and at TAMU Galveston.

Next Major Issue to be Addressed:

At its next meeting, the AAWG will discuss a standing committee for university-level coordination of academic advising. Specifically, the AAWG will form a preliminary charge for the standing committee and identify groups that should be represented in its membership. The AAWG will also continue to consider topics to be included in the university-level undergraduate advising guidelines. Groups and units responsible for developing draft content for specific topics will be identified.

Problems or Barriers Encountered and Solutions Identified:

No new barriers encountered.

Deliverables Completed:

No new deliverables completed.

Timeline for Completion of Remaining Deliverables:

University undergraduate advising coordination committee established—before September 2022
University-level undergraduate advising guidelines—September 2022
University-wide adoption of college-centralized advising—September 2022