

**University College Advising Center Program Review
Assessment Team Visit May 8-9, 2006**

**Post Review Response
Update March 2008**

The following are updates on the progress of the primary recommendations made by the review team:

Develop a clear and widely articulated philosophy statement that defines exactly what academic advising means in the context of University College. Specifically all advisors, administrators, staff, and students should understand the nature and purpose of the academic advising experience.

No additional progress; mission statement will need to be updated to reflect new organizational structure for Office of Academic and Career Planning.

Explore the possibility of assigning specific advisors within the UCAC. The ideal would be for the learning community advisor to be the assigned advisor for the students in the community and to remain as those students' advisors for the entire first-year experience.

A pilot for assigning advisors was conducted in 2007-2008 and we found that the system was relatively easy to implement. We are currently assessing student perspectives on having an assigned advisor.

We plan to assign an advisor to all beginning freshman entering for fall 2008. We will then do a yearly phase in so that within five years all UCOL students will have an assigned advisor.

Provide better training of the learning community teams (instructor, advisor, peer mentor) so that there is a clear understanding of advising goals.

The senior advisor for Learning Communities was on maternity leave for the fall 2007 term so little progress has been made. The implementation of Personal Development Plans in all first-year seminars will significantly change the role of the advisor in the learning community. We are planning training sessions for all advisors.

Relocate the Career Development staff to be housed with the advising center once the new Campus Center is completed and more space is available in University College.

Career counseling has been integrated into the Advising Center with the new name of "Office for Academic and Career Planning." Further, the career services functions of the former Career Center have been reorganized but are still part of the overall organizational structure to ensure programmatic integration.

Pay closer attention to those students who are not admitted to some of the more competitive fields. Clearly they need assistance in making alternative career plans and identifying a suitable academic program.

The new health advisor has developed a series of Podcasts on health-related programs that are available on the IUPUI website (this program recently won a media award). In addition, each semester all UCOL students with a declared major in a health field receive an e-newsletter outlining opportunities in health fields. Finally, a section of UCOL U210: Career Perspectives focusing on health careers is being offered this semester.

Advisors should be encouraged, mentored and rewarded for their scholarship in the academic advising profession. In addition, the Assessment Committee should develop action inquiry questions to assess the extent to which advising services and future changes in advising processes impact students and advisors.

The first research fellowship for advisors will be offered for the 2008-2008 academic year. A monthly series of brown bag lunch discussions about research articles related to advising has been established.

Use the mid-term grade reports as an opportunity to bring these students in to meet with an advisor to suggest specific ways to improve academic success and to engage in true developmental advising.

We are working with Gateway faculty and UITS to tie Early Warnings and a continuous reporting system to OnCourse.

Improve communication across campus in order to become the centralized voice for advising in an appropriately decentralized system. Recommendations for accomplishing this communication is an Advisor Newsletter and continuing the advising workshops offered to faculty and staff. Having the support of central administration, Deans and department heads would help in increasing the numbers of advisors who attend the workshops.

A series of professional development workshops for campus advisors has been offered during this academic year. Topics have included advising for retention, working with struggling students, career development and legal/ethical issues in advising.

A web portal for campus advisors has been created and we are currently loading relevant information. The site will be launched in April 2008 when we conduct campus-wide training for advisors involved in New Student Orientation.

A team of advisors is utilizing the Accelerated Improvement Process to create a way of streamlining the dissemination and organization of the constant changes to the curriculum that affect advising.

Create an Advising Council with representation from all areas of the University. Having the Director of the UCAC Chair this Council would help to further establish the center as the central hub of advising at IUPUI we recommend that the Executive Vice Chancellor make the appointments to this group in order to give it appropriate clout. We also recommend that the Council be chaired by the Director of the UCAC.

The Campus Advising Council was established in January 2008. In order to jump-start the work of the Council, a team of five members (both faculty and staff) attended a NACADA seminar on strategic planning for campus-wide academic advising in February 2008.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Application deadline May 15, 2008

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC ADVISOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS 2008–09

University College is pleased to announce a call for proposals for its 2008–09 academic advisor research fellowships. This is an initiative designed to enhance simultaneously the professional development of academic advisors and the initiatives undertaken by University College in support of entering students.

Fellows are expected to make a significant commitment of time and effort during the tenure of each fellowship, work with designated colleagues, and accomplish specific outcomes.

A stipend of up to \$5,000 can be requested. Typically 50% of the stipend will be awarded prior to commencement of the fellowships while the remaining stipend will be awarded upon submission of the final report. The tenure of each fellowship is subject to individual negotiation. In most cases, preliminary work on projects would commence during the summer of 2008, with completion of the project's work by summer of 2009.

In addition to the submission of a final report no later than May 1, 2009, faculty fellows may be requested to present their fellowship findings at a University College, campus, regional, or national forum.

The proposed research should address one of the following priorities for academic advising in University College:

- Effectiveness of advising strategies (e.g., group advising, advising via technology, appreciative advising, advising at New Student Orientation, workshops)
- Advising for targeted populations (e.g., adult learners, students on probation, health majors)
- Integration of academic advising and career development
- Outcomes related to the work of the academic advisor in learning communities
- Advisor workload and satisfaction

This award is competitive; proposals will be rated on the following criteria:

- Quality of writing
- Significance of the study
- Grounding in relevant literature
- Research design
- Schedule for completing the study
- Relevance to academic advising in University College

Proposals should be submitted to Cathy Buyarski, Assistant Dean and Executive Director of Academic and Career Development by the stated deadline.