

## **Committee on Academic Advising (CAA)**

Annual Report 2016-2017

**Members:** Carrie Andreoletti (Psychological Science, CAA Chair), Heather Rodriguez (Sociology), Chester Labedz (Management and Organization), Matthew Martin (Physical Education and Human Performance), David Spector (Biology), Briana McGuckin (Library, CAA Secretary), Sadie Marjani (Biology), Kate McGrath (History), Mary Horan (CLASS), Christina Higham (Business), Mary Pat Bigley (SEPS), Justine Gamache (SEST), Larry Hall (Admissions), Kevin Oliva (Academic Center for Student Athletes), Janice Reska (Explore CCSU), Yvonne Kirby (Institutional Research and Assessment), John Coleman (SGA)

**CAA MISSION:** The Committee on Academic Advising serves as a collective forum for the review of the University's undergraduate advising systems and the generation of new ideas. The committee serves to build partnerships between faculty and administrative offices as it relates to advising. The committee monitors and examines undergraduate advising at the University and provides recommendations for changes and improvements.

**Statement on Elimination of CACE:** The elimination of CACE was an administrative decision made with no consultation with established bodies of shared governance including the Committee on Academic Advising, which was created with the sole purpose of reviewing, monitoring, and collaborating on advising-related activities at CCSU. Furthermore, no data on qualitative or quantitative measures of student academic experience were presented by the administration to justify either the creation or the elimination of CACE. Therefore, the Committee on Academic Advising objects to opaque administrative decision-making that affects students, faculty, and staff without justification and without adherence to the norms of shared academic governance and urge transparent and inclusive decision making moving ahead. Given our mission, we look forward to working together with the administration, faculty, staff, and students to ensure that students receive the best possible advising at CCSU.

### **Major Accomplishments:**

1. Updated and improved the Committee on Academic Advising website (<http://www.ccsu.edu/caa>), which can be accessed via the CCSU A-Z index under Advising, Committee on Academic. The website provides documents and links to advising resources for faculty, staff, and students. The site includes information about the advising centers, links to resources (e.g., academic maps, learning outcomes for academic advising), as well as committee by-laws, meeting dates, and minutes.
2. We welcomed a student member to our committee this year who organized an SGA Student Advising Forum, which was held on March 7, 2017 from 10-3 in the Student Center. Although it was not as well attended as past forums, it provided a template and momentum for what we hope with better advertising/marketing, can become an annual event.

3. In our efforts to create a “culture of advising” on campus, we proposed two possible programs with the Center for Teaching and Faculty Development (CTFD):
  - a. An annual half-day advising workshop open to the entire faculty. While such an event might include plenary presentations on general education requirements, using degree evaluation software, etc., the main focus would be smaller group discussions sharing advising experiences and practices, facilitated by members or former members of the CAA.
  - b. One-hour workshops available to individual departments focused on eliciting discussion of experiences and practices within a department. A faculty facilitator from the current or former membership of the CAA could be accompanied by someone from the Registrar’s office or one of the advising centers to answer practical questions as they arise (not necessarily to offer a formal presentation that would cut into discussion time).
4. Developed a “Plan of Action” for the 15 to Finish initiative from the BOR Academic Council. Given our mission, CAA is a natural steering committee to roll out the 15 to Finish initiative at CCSU.
  - a. **Plan to Inform and Engage Key Stakeholders:**
    - i. Utilize tools to be provided by the system office.
    - ii. Make fact sheets, brochures, etc. available in school-based advising centers, Exploratory Advising Center, and Academic Center for Student Athletes
    - iii. Promote initiative on CAA and school-based advising center websites
    - iv. Utilize current academic maps as raw materials from which to build “15 to Finish” content/advertising, etc.
    - v. Engage SGA – include 15 to Finish in annual Student Advising Forum
  - b. **Assessment Plan:**
    - i. How many students currently take 15 credits per semester? Measure pre/post “15 to Finish” implementation.
    - ii. Are we measuring knowledge or behavior? Do students know they need to take 15 credits to graduate in 4 years but choose not to for a variety of reasons?
    - iii. Include as part of our routine advising assessment.
  - c. **Committee Concerns to be Addressed:**
    - i. 15 credits a semester is not the best path for all students
    - ii. What about course availability? Late registration usually means 12-13 credits 1st semester, and that may set a misleading precedent.

#### **Goals for 2017-2018:**

1. Continue efforts to review and revise advising assessment survey/tools to maximize usefulness to stakeholders.

2. Roll out 15 to Finish
3. Collaborate with CTFD to schedule and run advising programs to promote “culture of advising.”
4. Collaborate with student member to hold a spring SGA Student Advising Panel
5. Maintain and improve CAA website.

Respectfully submitted 4/28/17, Dr. Carrie Andreoletti, Chair, CAA