

Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Advising (CAA)

Annual Report 2018-2019 Academic Year

Members:

Jan Bishop (Physical Education and Human Performance), John Carps (Student Representative), Justine Gamache (SEST, co-chair), Gena Givens (Criminology and Criminal Justice), Jacqueline Guzman (SOB), Sylvia Halkin (Biology), Larry Hall (Admissions), Mary Horan (CLASS), Yvonne Kirby (Institutional Research and Assessment), Chester Labedz (Management and Organization), Sarah LoGiudice (SEPS), Sadie Marjani (Biology), Kevin Oliva (Academic Center for Student Athletes, co-chair), Jason Sikorski (Psychological Science, co-chair), John Tully (History), Bin (Brenda) Zhou (Engineering)

Consistent with committee bylaws, the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Advising worked to monitor and examine academic advising on the Central Connecticut University campus through varying initiatives. This group of teaching and administrative faculty engaged in thoughtful discussion regarding future directions in academic advising on our campus.

Student Advising Forum

During the Fall semester of 2018, the Committee on Academic Advising partnered with the Student Government Association to run an advising forum on campus that took place on December 4, 2018. Considerable effort was directed at advertising the event to students, faculty and staff. Administrators, professional advisors and faculty advisors were present to listen to student concerns regarding academic advising and offer ideas for how these issues could potentially be remedied in the future. Following the academic advising forum, committee members discussed numerous ways that the process could be altered in the future. Changes to the advertising strategy and staffing for these sessions will be implemented for future forums. A detailed summary report of the questions posed by students about advising and the responses provided by the panel members is available upon request.

Although a second advising forum was scheduled for the Spring semester of 2019, the event was cancelled due to the illness of a key partner. An additional student advising forum will be planned for the Fall Semester of 2019 and a sub-committee will be formed early in the 2019-2020 academic year to oversee and staff this student advising forum.

Discussion with Provost Dauwalder regarding academic advising on the CCSU campus

On January 31, 2019, Provost Dauwalder attended our monthly meeting. Dr. Dauwalder was recently appointed as Provost at Central Connecticut State University and the committee was eager to discuss how we could contribute information that might help him chart future directions for advising on our campus. During this meeting, Dr. Dauwalder was very receptive to having members of the CAA share their advising experiences and help guide potential changes to the academic advising process at Central Connecticut State University. In fact, the co-chairs of the committee met with Provost Dauwalder to discuss advising at an additional follow-up meeting. In short, in the coming months and years, Dr. Dauwalder hoped to examine consistencies and differences in how professional advisors working in the school-based advising centers and faculty advisors working within unique academic departments viewed advising and provided services to students. Dr. Dauwalder suggested that obtaining feedback to the following questions across the school-based advising centers and within individual academic departments might prove helpful to him in beginning a more detailed analysis of advising at Central Connecticut State University.

The questions posed by Dr. Dauwalder included:

Whom do you serve when providing academic advising?

Who is in charge of academic advising?

What do you do when providing academic advising to students?

When do you provide academic advising services to students?

Who is responsible for providing different types of academic advising to students?

Who owns decisions regarding academic advising in your department or center?

How do you negotiate situations that don't fit the typical student mold when providing academic advising?

With Dr. Dauwalder's questions in hand, the committee elected to collect information regarding how stakeholders, both faculty and/or staff who work within their identified school-based center or academic department, might answer the questions posed. Over the course of several months, committee members gathered answers to these questions from different faculty and/or staff members. Each committee member shared those responses, and sometimes interpretations of individual responses, with the co-chairs of the CAA. The co-chairs took the data provided and created a document outlining how professionals from different departments or school-based advising centers answered the questions posed above. We will share the responses with Provost Dauwalder during a meeting to be scheduled during the summer months of 2019.

Future Committee Goals

The Committee on Academic Advising is comprised of a multi-faceted group of faculty members, administrators, and professional advisors. Together, we offer a range of experiences and perspectives regarding academic advising and how it could most effectively be performed on our campus. As a result, our committee will continue to work with Provost Dauwalder and offer our expertise in order to best inform his views on academic advising on our campus. The CAA feels it is important that this multi-disciplinary committee have a voice in evaluating advising on our campus.

Multiple surveys that have assessed academic advising have been administered in the past (2013 Advising Survey). Although results have sometimes been summarized, more often than not, little else has been done with these data collected. The committee seeks to devote additional time and resources to reviewing these data in hopes that trends can be recognized to guide future advising initiatives on our campus.

The committee will continue to work to improve and oversee Student Advising Forums on campus. The committee plans to continue to work with the Student Government Association in planning and staffing these forums.

Respectfully Submitted by Co-Chairs of the Committee on Academic Advising

Justine Gamache (SEST)

Kevin Oliva (Academic Center for Student Athletes)

Jason Sikorski (Psychological Science)