

ADVISING FOR RETENTION AND STUDENT SUCCESS

University Council Meeting

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Student Success and Advising



ADVISING AND RETENTION

- “Effective retention programs have come to understand that academic advising is the very core of successful institutional efforts to educate and retain students.”
 - Vincent Tinto (1987)
- Advising can make the difference between staying in school and leaving it.
 - Vincent Tinto (2010), as cited by Yonker, Hebreard, and Cawley (2019)
- Academic advising plays a key role in retention, persistence and graduation (RPG) or retention, persistence and completion (RPC) by students.
 - NACADA (Global Community for Academic Advising)
- Good advising may be the single most underestimated characteristic of a successful college experience.
 - Richard Light (2003)

ADVISING AND MISSION FULFILLMENT

- WOU's priority to achieve **student success** includes a directive to “streamline and improve university processes in support of student achievement.”
- In support of this, the strategic plan specifically identifies an intent to:

“Improve academic advising for all students.”

NEXT STEPS

- In order to improve academic advising for all students, we need to start by having a **central definition and guidelines for academic advising**.
- To address this need, we propose the **creation of a University Council Academic Advising Task Force**

ACADEMIC ADVISING TASKFORCE CHARGE

- Develop a **standard definition and guiding principles** of academic advising.
- **Create program and student learning outcomes** for academic advising.
- Conduct student focus groups and examine data available (e.g. NSSE survey) to identify key advising needs
- **Develop recommendations** for effective academic advising practices, training, and resources that align with the definition, guiding principles, and outcomes.
- Gather student feedback on the advising definition, principles, and outcomes.
- Determine if there is a need for a permanent Academic Advising Committee to achieve these recommendations.

MEMBERSHIP AND TIME COMMITMENT

UC Academic Advising Taskforce Membership

- Chair: Director of Student Success and Advising
 - Also acts as University Council and Student Success and Advising representative
- Advisor representative from every academic division
 - Ideally at least one representative that carries a graduate advising load
- Representative from the Interdisciplinary Studies Program
- Representative from Student Enrichment Program
- Representative from Multicultural Student Services and Programs
- Representative from the General Education Program

Time Commitment

- Monthly meetings for the 2019-2020 academic year
- If needed, meetings may resume in Fall 2020

TASKFORCE REPORTING

- The Task force will provide regular reports to University Council on findings from focus groups and data analysis, updates on the charge, and final recommendations
- Town hall meetings will be scheduled for campus to share the definition, guiding principles, learning outcomes, recommendations, etc.
 - May also include findings from focus groups and data analysis