

Academic Advising Council

2020-21 Annual Report

To: President, OSU Faculty Senate
From: Erin Heim, Chair, Academic Advising Council
Subject: 2020-2021 Academic Advising Council Annual Report

The Academic Advising Council continued to be a touchstone for guidance regarding academic advising processes and issues. In 2021-22, the Council focused mainly on supporting academic advisors and students while working remotely and on developing a new subcommittee in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice (DEISJ) in advising and addressing the Council's outdated Standing Rules.

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council continued to meet remotely for the 2020-21 academic year.
- The Council provided feedback on proposed rewrites of Academic Regulations 12, 13, 25, 26, 27 and 31.
- Throughout the term, the Council received updates from the Remote Advising Support Team. Council members provided the team with feedback from the advising community regarding their assistance while advising and working remotely. These suggestions resulted in weekly advising tips via the team's Teams channel, spurring conversation and community among OSU advisors.
- The Council acts as an open forum for advising representatives to ask for advice, share experiences of advising teams, and update each other on developments in their units, including:
 - S/U deadline and approvals
 - Quarterly START planning
 - Bookings Questions – most units on campus now use Bookings
 - Heads-up to faculty when advisors know a student will request an accommodation
 - Academic Requirements Committee and Academic Standing Committee Co-Chairs re: Working with Students on Petitions
 - COVID-19 vaccine requirements
 - Black Student Access & Success Initiative Merging with Indigenous Student Success Initiative
 - Progress reports on the Office of the Registrar's updates to create workflows for various petitions and requests
- The Council began to hold space in each meeting to discuss DEISJ in Advising topics, including:
 - Foreign Language Admissions Requirement
 - Creating Inclusive Communities Training
 - Impact of Drop/Withdraw Refund Schedules & Deadlines
- In 2017 the Council approved a revision to their Standing Rules. These were never brought to the Executive Committee (EC) or Faculty Senate. Throughout the year, we worked to gather input from members regarding the language of the rules and voting and non-voting members. Using surveys and meeting discussions, we developed several potential drafts. Unable to reach a consensus on the rules by the end of the academic year, we decided to put forward the 2017 version. When presented at the Faculty Senate, they were not approved. This was all for the better since we had already developed improved drafts. During 2021-22, Council leadership will get a draft approved and sent to the Executive Committee and Faculty Senate for approval.

Unlike many Faculty Senate committees, Academic Advising Council membership is fixed and does not rotate. Membership consists of voting members, as found in our Standing Rules, and non-voting members, as found in our Guidelines. The leadership of the Council and their external responsibilities were as follows:

- Erin Heim, Chair, College of Public Health and Human Sciences
- Mary Chuinard, Immediate Past Chair, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric

Sciences

- Eliza Allison, Secretary and Chair-Elect (2020-2021), College of Public Health and Human Sciences
- Kerry Kincanon, University Exploratory Studies Program, was elected at the June meeting to the position of Secretary-Elect (2021-2022) and Chair-Elect (2022-2023) per Council Guidelines.

Subcommittees

The Academic Advising Council is populated with members and college affiliates to support academic advising, Registrar's Office staff, and IT representatives in Advising Technology. In the 2020-21 year, the Academic Technology Committee (ATC) updated its charter, formalized membership, and expanded membership to include representatives from the Academic Counseling Community (EOP, TRIO SSS, etc.), the Academics for Student-Athletes Community, and a representative from the INTO OSU student success advising community. The ATC also formalized the role of each committee member, ensuring it was expected that all members would act as a representative voice for their college/unit and must be dedicated to communicating both up to the ATC committee at large, as well as reporting back findings of the ATC to their respective units.

During the 2020-21 academic year the Council worked to develop a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice Subcommittee. In February of 2021, the Council approved having a standing agenda item each month where members of the advising community can bring forward topics and illuminate barriers and frustrations that have relevance to systemic oppression and issues adversely affecting BIPOC, First Generation, Low-Income, Students with Disabilities and other historically marginalized populations at OSU. In addition to the standing agenda item, the Council is proposing the creation of a new subcommittee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice in advising. This proposed subcommittee would provide the Council with a vehicle to advance action items and respond to emergent student/advisor concerns, a think tank for training and development possibilities, and a connecting point for other equity and social justice work on campus. This subcommittee is not intended to replace or subvert existing institutional channels for formal bias response like the Office of Institutional Diversity's bias incident response protocol or Equal Opportunity and Access processes. The scope of this subcommittee would be to provide an outlet for deeper advising community attention to systemic barriers for students and advisors with an eye towards helping the institution reach its strategic commitment of "foster(ing) belonging and success for all" and helping the advising community reach its stated commitments and goals related to equity, inclusion and social justice. Subcommittee work could include: Delineating how Council can advance student/advisor concerns/questions to key campus partners (Faculty Senate, Office of the Registrar, Office of Institutional Diversity, University Information and Technology, Equal Opportunity and Access, Office of the Dean of Students units, Black and Native American/Indigenous Student Access and Success, Institutional Analytics and Research Seeding enhancements and improvements relative to orientation, advising, registration and transition in the spirit of dismantling oppressive systems and processes at OSU. Proposing, developing, and/or sponsoring advisor training and development related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. The make-up of the committee is yet to be determined. AAC leadership will solicit interest from the advising community in the 2021-22 AY.

Conclusion

The Council continues not to have a student representative at the table. Although we met remotely, the Council was still able to be productive, providing feedback to the various campus bodies, acting as a sounding board to advising community members, and developing a new subcommittee to address issues of systemic racism and oppression and social injustices in academic advising.

Respectfully submitted,

*Erin Heim, Chair
Academic Advising Council 2020-21
Head Advisor – College of Public Health and Human Sciences*