



University Advising Committee

**Minutes**

Date 11/04/2019 Start Time 2:30 AM Adjournment Time 3:30 AM Location SSC Conference Room  
 Type of Meeting  Regular  Special

CHAIR	Barbara Michaelides
SECRETARY	Patti Pate
ATTENDEES	Blair David, Patti Pate, Mary Adams, Peggy Lane, Jessica Dolecheck, Paula Griswold, Chris Michaelides, Barbara Michaelides, Chair
ABSENT (EXCUSED)	Heather Kennedy, Sara Webb, Michelle McEacharn, Karen Arrant, Mary Elizabeth Bridges

**Agenda**

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS	
The meeting opened at 2:30 pm.	
DISCUSSION TOPICS	
<p>2. Chair asked if committee members agreed that the Graduation Application process discussed at the previous meeting should be placed on the Advising Resources web page. All present agreed. Chair will have the information added to that web page.</p> <p>3. The holds recommendation document was brought up for discussion. Members agreed that the material they provided supported the positive reasons for having the advising hold reinstated. Committee members then raised the question regarding whether or not the committee should move forward with it or wait for results after a longer period of time. Some members offered student anecdotes to support the adding of advising holds again to all students. Discussion also continued about waiting a semester or two to review the results of no advising holds on non-TALON students. Members were asked to provide anecdotal stories to chair by close of business 11/11/19.</p> <p>4. International advising – information was provided by Director of the International Office and shared with the committee members. Members are asked to share with faculty advisors.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS	
<p>Committee members provided input per request above as to why advising holds should be reinstated.</p> <p>Recommendation: Request that ULM place advising holds on all students twice per year, once in fall and once in spring.</p> <p>Basis: Student retention and academic success (graduation)</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the NSSE report, students list advising as a strength of ULM.</li> <li>Several years ago the committee adopted Appreciative Advising as the philosophy to be followed at ULM. This philosophy continues as the basis of academic advising at ULM for program and professional advisors.</li> </ul>	

- The advising session (in light of Appreciative Advising as practiced at ULM) is not only a scheduling session but also an important part of a consistent relationship with the student's program for a variety of reasons, as follows.
  - o Relationship building. Instructors may very well build relationships in the classroom, but it is the one-on-one advising appointment where that relationship is solidified and where mentoring takes place.
  - o The advising relationship fosters meetings with two-way communication. In the classroom there may be limited time for that communication, but in the advising session the advisor may not only give advice, but actively listen to advisees in order to advance the goals of the session.
  - o Course availability and other nuances of sequencing, minor information, timing, double degrees and majors, career placement, internships, and degree progress are just some things discussed during the session. Students could overlook such details without the guidance of an advisor.
  - o Students are kept on track for graduation. Without mandatory advising, students do not obtain accurate information which can lead to postponement of graduation.
  - o During the advising session, the advisor may discuss courses based on the student's success in certain classes. A degree map, while helpful, does not provide these details that are critical for success and retention.
  - o These relationships are necessary for the advisor to help with career placement and provide letters of recommendation.
  - o Holds ensure that the student actually makes contact with the advisor assigned to him or her. Eliminating them undercuts the coordinating work we do to provide this one-on-one mentoring.
  - o Best practices in retention involve more, not less, contact with advisors; an as-needed advising model seems better suited to the graduate level.
  - o Step 1 of the Graduation Application process requires students to attend a mandatory advising review session that prepares them to follow the necessary steps to apply for graduation.
  - o The advising appointment helps students maintain requirements for funding sources like scholarships and financial aid.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Proposal will be submitted to VPs	Michaelides	January 2020

Approved by committee/council chair  Yes on 2/3/2020