

2014

Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee Faculty Senate Report Spring 2014

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee Faculty Senate Report Spring 2014" (2014). *Faculty Senate Committee Reports and Appendices*. Paper 261.
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Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee
Faculty Senate Report Spring 2014

Current Committee Members:

Mark Conley (chair), G. Faye Boudreaux-Bartels, Kathy Bowser, Nancy Kelley, Roberta King, Dean Libutti, Joseph Maynard, Mary Louise Palm, Jayne Richmond, Sarina Rodrigues, Penny Steen, Tammy Vargas Warner, Ethan Zawatsky

Regular attender on advisory capacity: Linda Lyons

Committee Charge:

4.30 The Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee (UAAC) shall be responsible for coordinating advisor training to develop and improve university-wide advisement, ensuring that all academic advisors are informed and trained in best practices in advising, as well as in the university's academic requirements. The Committee shall also facilitate assessment of university-wide advising and make policy recommendations to the Faculty Senate.

Background:

In April 2011 a joint ad-hoc committee on advising began to meet in order to examine factors that affect advising, taking into account the unique needs of the various colleges and departments with the university. After thorough examination of best practices within and outside the University of Rhode Island, this ad-hoc committee submitted a two hundred-page report in August of 2012 making many recommendations, one of which was the formation of a permanent Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate. The Senate approved this committee's formation on April 18, 2013. This new committee first met December 4, 2013.

2013-2014 Activities and Actions of the UAAC:

First, we wish to affirm the work of and the report by the previous Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Advising. This report is available, as it has been since its submission, through the Faculty Senate website under the 2012-13 academic year.

This year was spent reviewing this report, educating ourselves on academic advising as it currently exists at URI, and learning of the initiatives underway to affirm best practices and improve future outcomes.

We see our role as fine-tuning some portions of this ad hoc committee's report, as well as monitoring its recommendations as they are implemented.

We have recognized that there are three components to the issue of academic advising: training, workload and assessment.

1) TRAINING

- We learned of the current work underway to begin training programs for advisors. As a committee, we made recommendations regarding the implementation of these training programs, as well as making suggestions as to how they might be integrated with CCE.

- As a committee, we watched presentations on the progress made in curriculum mapping and degree audits

2) WORKLOAD

- The committee is reviewing and plans to present templates of letters of hire for recommended language regarding advising workload

3) ASSESSMENT

- Over the Summer, a subcommittee intends to find an assessment instrument that will help us to evaluate the effectiveness of advising training programs as they are adopted.