

Committee on Academic Advising

December 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Present: Mary Pat Bigley, Jan Bishop, Justine Gamache, Jacqueline Guzman, Sylvia Halkin, Mary Horan, Yvonne Kirby, Sadie Marjani, Caroline Marquez, Briana McGuckin, Kevin Oliva, Heather Rodriguez, President Zulma Toro, Brenda Zhou

1. For President Toro, reviewed the creation, purpose, history, and concerns of the Committee on Academic Advising, as well as recent activities such as the advising open forum in partnership with the SGA and the upcoming “15 to Finish” initiative.
2. President Toro solicited feedback on a) how advising is working and what to do going forward, b) whether the advising experience is different/inconsistent for transfer students, and c) what is going well/needs improvement.
 - a. New configuration of advising has meant less shuffling of students, connection to their schools and faculty. President Toro recognized issue of being short-staffed in counseling, and a desire to invest in counselors to help ease students through various transitions.
 - i. ACTION: CAA should make a recommendation for counselors, and need-based scholarships to President Toro in 2018.
 - b. Most community colleges like the idea of collaborative advising to inform students of CCSU requirements, which could either mean hosting monthly or giving students access to DegreeWorks’ What-If analysis.
 - c. Discussed the importance of oversight, the idea of “walk-in triage” for advising to direct students. Some ideas:
 - i. Different business cards with different contacts/locations to hand out.
 - ii. “Helping Students in Distress,” a useful booklet, could be updated for faculty who do not regularly advise.
 - iii. Size of advising load, consistency of faculty advising, and accurate recognition of advising load when evaluating for promotion and tenure are all issues that need to be addressed.
 - iv. Notify faculty of at-risk students with an early-alert system.

Respectfully submitted by Briana McGuckin