

4 April 2000

TO: Members, University Senate

FROM: University Senate Council

RE: AGENDA ITEM: University Senate Meeting, Monday 10 April 2000
Proposal to Establish a Senate Standing Committee on Academic Advising, Section I, 1.4.3.3

Proposal: Add Senate Academic Advising Committee to Section I, USR

There shall be a standing committee with the purpose of creating a process of constant review and accountability to all academic advising of the University of Kentucky:

- A. Setting standards for the quality of academic advising.
- B. Reviewing and examining faculty and professional advising.
- C. Making recommendations to the Senate Council regarding academic advising.
- D. Considering all other recommendations made to the University Senate, through the proper channels, involving academic advising.

Membership of the Academic Advising Committee shall consist of no more than three (3) faculty members of the University Senate who are currently faculty advisors; three (3) students (two student senators of the University Senate and one student at-large) to be determined by the Senate Council upon recommendation of the President of the Student Government Association; three (3) professional advisors determined by a process designated by the University of Kentucky Advisors Network and the Senate Council and two ex officio members, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Vice Chancellor for Advising Services.

Rationale: The University of Kentucky Strategic Plan states our commitment to, "Strengthen the University's commitment to excellence in teaching and student advising" through the enabling strategies of "Providing timely and informed student advising,"

"Promote and reward excellent teaching and advising," and "Strengthen the academic, cultural, and recreational opportunities outside the classroom."

We, the UK Student Government Association, seek the creation of this committee to provide the first steps toward excellent advising. This governing body will be responsible for the standards, procedures, and accountability of academic advising at the University

The Council for the Advancement of Standards Higher Education (CAS) believes that,

"Academic advising is an essential element of a student's college experience. It evolves from the institution's culture, values, and practices, and is delivered in accordance with these factors." "

CAS also acknowledges that advising is one of the few elements of an institution that all students experience. Based on anecdotal evidence, SGA has observed that students who encounter advising problems at the University tend to remain in school longer, usually 5-6 years. The University's graduation rate data shows that only 19% of freshmen that entered in the fall of 1993 graduated in 1997, the year of most recently available data. Of the students entering in the fall of 1992, only 41.2% graduated in 1997.

The University has made a commitment, through its strategic indicators, that 55% of students entering in the fall of 1997 will graduate in 2003. In 1999, the six-year graduation rate stood at 50.8%. Therefore, SGA sees the creation of this committee as imperative to the achievement of this indicator.

We believe that the standing committee would create a catalyst for advising reform from the entire University Community. Though we realize that there is no one solution to the problems facing academic advising, this committee will create an atmosphere of culpability to our goals here at the University of Kentucky by enabling leadership on various academic advising issues.

The proposal was approved by the University Senate Council.

Implementation: Fall, 2000

If approved, the proposal will be forwarded to the Rules Committee for codification.

US Agenda: Senate Standing Committee on Advising.doc