



The Provost and the Vice President for Student Success are writing to the Senate Council to ask for clarity around the Senate's committee seats as it pertains to the Provost Committee on Advising (PCA) and the Advising Network.

Background Information

Provost Committee on Advising

The PCA was formed in 2018 to serve as the official, representative body of the University's advising community. PCA membership is structured around formal job responsibilities and titles, and it includes college staff leaders in academic advising (assistant deans, directors of advising, or their delegates) as well as leaders representing program advising and career advising offices. It includes representation from offices that support core advising functions like the Office of the Registrar and the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships. The PCA is administratively connected to both the Office of the Provost and the Office for Student Success through the formal advising dual report structure. The PCA is facilitated by the Office for Student Success.

Advising Network

The Advising Network began in the late 1980s and is a professional development organization that does not have a formal administrative structure to the University. The organization's by-laws clarify that "the Advising Network will operate autonomously and in the best interest of the advising community." Membership to this group is open to any individual employed at the University of Kentucky as well as to non-UK employees who work for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and other post-secondary institutions. It is not limited to individuals engaged in advising or hold a position based on advising. Budgetary support for the Advising Network is provided by the Office for Student Success.

University Senate, PCA, and Advising Network

There are University Senate committees (e.g., Academic Advising Committee and Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee) that currently have membership parameters

that include representation from the PCA and/or Advising Network. The Advising Network has been seated for many years.

In 2018, the PCA was created as a way to have advising leaders across campus work collaboratively through a formalized voice of the advising community. At that time, institutional leaders worked with Senate officers to add PCA representation to these Senate committees given the PCA's official role within the University. At that time, staff in the Senate Council office recommended that it was easier to add dedicated seats to committees rather than replace seats. As a result, PCA representatives were added to these committees, and PCA members were seated.

In 2021, the Senate committee assignments did not seat PCA representatives. Constituents thought that this was because the Office for Student Success was now administratively housed under the Office of the President rather than the Office of the Provost. Additionally, there seemed to be some confusion about whether the PCA still existed. The PCA did and does still exist and continues to meet monthly during the academic year. The Office of University Advising facilitates the meetings, wherein advising leaders to come together to discuss issues, proposed policies, and share information. These meetings are predominantly made up of college-based academic advising leaders, who have dual reports to the Provost and Vice President for Student Success.