Advising Mission and Vision Task Force Report

December 2007

The Advising Mission and Vision Task Force was established by the Provost in Fall 2007 in response to Recommendation 4 in the NACADA report (June 2007). Recommendation 4 is "that a campus-wide group of advising stakeholders come together to shape a definition of advising for UNI, to collaborate on the development of an advising mission statement followed by a statement of the vision for academic advising and a delineation of the shared goals of advising at UNI, all the while honoring schools' and colleges' individual advising cultures and practices" (NACADA Report, 9).

Task Force Members
Adam Bentley, NISG
Jane Bentley-Gadow, COE
Shoshanna Coon, CNS
Linda Corbin, CBA
Susan Hill, CHFA, Chair
Jean Neibauer, Academic Advising
Vaughn Shannon, CSBS
Anthony Smothers, Academic Advising

The Task Force created an Advising Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Goals for advising at UNI. In addition, the Task Force developed assessment outcomes for the advising goals. The Task Force met almost weekly during the fall semester and completed its work.

- All of the constituencies at the meetings agreed to the mission, vision and goals/outcomes for advising.
  - At the same time, the Task Force understands--as expressed in the NACADA report--that different constituencies may have different processes for advising, and different ways of collecting data for assessment. As implementation of advising assessment moves forward, care must be taken to work within these differences. Working towards common overall goals for advising at UNI does not preclude the possibility that colleges, departments, etc., will create distinct ways of meeting these goals and outcomes.
- As can be seen on the attached statements of goals and outcomes for assessing advising, there is a considerable amount of work to be done to create clear communication channels and consistent practices for assessing advising.
  - The Task Force sees the creation of the Advising Council to be a positive step in this direction.
    - The Task Force believes that one task of the Advising Council will be to implement the Action Steps recommended in this document.
ADVISING MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS; ADVISING GOALS

***MISSION STATEMENT***
Academic Advising is a critical component of the teaching and learning environment at UNI. Advising is a personalized educational experience, empowering students to explore, articulate and achieve their academic, career and life goals.

***VISION STATEMENT***
UNI aspires to create the best possible advising experience for each student.

***ADVISING GOALS***
1. Promote a culture of quality academic advising through advisor education, recognition and reward, and advising program assessment.

2. Assist students in understanding the nature and purpose of higher education.

3. Ensure that all students have access to knowledgeable and respectful advisors.

4. Provide accurate information about university requirements, policies, and procedures.

5. Encourage, support and guide students to take responsibility for meeting their own educational, personal and career goals.

See attached for Advising Goals and Assessment Outcomes for those goals. Column 2, Action Steps in Place suggests practices and events already in place that fulfill goals. Column 3, Action Steps Needed, suggests advising practices/events that need to be put into place in order to fulfill the desired goals and outcomes for advising at UNI.

Please note that events listed in the “Action Steps in Place” are not inclusive for the entire university. Individual departments and programs may have other practices in place of which the Task Force members are unaware.