

Minutes of the Salisbury University Faculty
Special Session on General Education and Advising Center
September 13, 2016
Senate Chambers: Holloway Hall 119
<http://www.salisbury.edu/campusgov/facsenate/>

Senators Present: Stephen Adams, Anita Brown, Thomas Calo, Thomas Cawthern (Webmaster), Randall Cone, Douglas DeWitt, Chrys Egan (Secretary), Stephen Ford (President), Samuel Geleta (Vice President), Kurt Ludwick, Darrell Mullins, John Nieves, Vitus Ozoke, David Parker, James Parrigin, David Rieck, Asif Shakur, Bart Talbert, Brent Zaprowski

Quorum: 19/19 Present

Call to Order: Faculty Senate President Stephen Ford, 3:30 p.m.

1. Brief General Education Review Update: Dr. James King, Co-Chair General Education Steering Committee

- a. Remarks: Current Gen Ed changing student needs and desired outcomes. This initiative represents shared governance
 - i. Curriculum integrated and inter-disciplinary
 - ii. Curriculum is more flexible and inclusive
 - iii. Improve student learning
 - iv. COMAR guidelines
 - v. Middle States accreditation process
 - vi. Salisbury experience unique to our university

Timeline:

- vii. August- learning goals and outcomes
- viii. September- Wine and Cheese social and 9/20 meeting- talk to Senate about voting process
- ix. October – Model to share and discuss through December
- x. December 6 Senate meeting discussion

b. Discussion:

- i. Senator asked about presenting only one model. King confirmed that only one model would be presented.

2. Changes to Academic Advising: Melissa Boog, Assoc. VP Academic Affairs (See Strategic Plan documents)

a. Remarks:

- i. Why revise advising? Over 16 years and in this role for 6 years, Boog has heard anecdotal complaints from students and faculty about advising. Faculty reported that they had too many advisees to balance work load. Students published articles in The Flyer. All substitutions and waivers come through her office and are tracked; there has been an increase in number of issues are related to advising errors as advising becomes more complex. First year students have a high retention rate but no increases,

so advising center aims to address this. One goal of the Strategic Plan and Middle States is to review advising, which started 3 years ago.

- ii. Key points of plan: Administration was already into the process of hiring advisors when they came to the Senate on 9/6/16. Four candidates have been hired out of 103 applicants. SU already has a professional advisor, Catherine Jackson, who works with Undecided students and has explained a lot about professional advising. The Professional Advising position advertisement required a Bachelor's degree, with Master's preferred. All campus candidates interviewed have Master's Degrees and professional experience, including the 4 hired, who are also from different academic disciplines. Perdue School advising coordinator is an example of an effective advisor with a degree in another field.
- iii. There seems to be a misunderstanding that advisees would be randomly assigned, but they are assigned by major. Advising professionals would function like librarians, who all can assist students, but do focus on their specialty disciplines. They will have 300 students per advisor, which is on par for governing body of professional advising.
- iv. Goal is to assist first year students to help them with other issues beyond selecting courses and to work with professionals beyond program planning. Advisors will follow a 4 year plan course and EAB program to improve graduation rates. Registration would be different through GullNet. Prescription parts of advising would be removed from faculty so they can focus on content, curriculum, and research. Faculty in town halls indicated that they liked advising students, but that they wanted to discuss the discipline more than requirements.

b. Discussion:

- i. Who will activate student accounts? Incoming freshmen would be activated by professional advisor.
- ii. Senator raised concerns that nobody asked for a 4 year plan for Anthropology students. Concern could extend to all smaller programs. Boog will follow up on this specific program.
- iii. How will transfer students be advised? Boog confirmed that this concern was raised at every town hall meeting. Advising Services Coordinators and faculty would have support starting in 2018-2019 when professional advisors could include transfer students and other special populations.
- iv. Senator question if the plan as written really connects students with appropriate faculty. Two models have been used at other universities in addition to professional advisors: peer advising and key faculty who strongly want to advise freshman.
- v. Senator asks about pre-professional programs like pre-pharmacy. Would those students work with professional advisors? The strategic plans uses "pre-professional" to mean gatekeeping programs like Nursing.
- vi. How would professional advisors work with Education and Secondary Education? Students would have 2 advisors. Elementary education starts as pre-professional courses and are advised to take courses as directed.
- vii. Do electronic advising notes appear? Yes. First year students either seek no help or help from every source.

- viii. Henson faculty concerned about GullNet, which does not list an advisor for freshman. Faculty names were entered, but removed. Can someone's name be entered since students are looking? ASCs felt that having no names was more problematic. Suggestion made to at least add the School Coordinator's name.
 - ix. Senator gives his assessment of positives and negatives of proposal.
Positives: Help undecided students, some departments have too many advisees; *Negatives:* One size does not fit all, Computer Science faculty would rather advise their own students because only they can answer certain questions, faculty can best answer questions on how courses prepare students for careers, Secondary Education is so complex, this is not the time to make this change, in 4 weeks we will have professional advisors that are not even here yet, no department should be required to participate.
 - x. Concerned raised that it will only be "recommended" to see faculty advisors, but students won't do it.
 - xi. September 28 is date that professional advisors would start. Advising begins on October 12.
 - xii. Does the spring 2019 SU assessment plan relate to Middle States accreditation? Yes. We will not wait until then to assess certain things.
 - xiii. Projected outcomes: Reduce the number of courses that students do not need because of advising errors, but double majors and minors are still encouraged. Financial aid sometimes impacts credits taken.
 - xiv. How will the 4 advisors get the knowledge they need and how quickly. Current ASCs have a lot of knowledge about advising, plus they know certain disciplines. Advisors would meet with departments and faculty. Every advisor hired asked about how they would be connected to faculty since they currently do this job at other universities.
 - xv. Concerns about the timeline with only 2 weeks to prepare. Some departments may not have time to prepare. Can this be a phased-in plan? Not Boog's decision. She is open to suggestions.
 - xvi. Boog's job description is student success. For 3 years she has worked on this plan to help students and faculty. Boog concludes her remarks.
- c. Post-presentation Discussion: Suggestion that for fall 2016 semester, we need to engage in traditional advising. Further suggestion that departments can opt-in fall 2016. A recent thesis and our experience confirm that faculty advising has a strong positive impact on student success and teacher-student professional relationships. Proposition made that new Professional Advisors can come to traditional faculty-student advising sessions this fall to see how we advise. Current ASCs are part of the team and have already been advising freshman.
- d. Motion from Senator Parker: I move that the new student advising system be modified so that for this semester:
- i. The faculty in every academic program be allowed to vote and decide no later than 23 September 2016 either to change to the new student advising system or to continue using the present faculty-adviser student advising

system, whichever the faculty determine is better for their declared majors; and in the absence of a vote, remain in the current system.

- ii. No academic program be forced to involuntarily adopt the new student advising system for its declared majors; and
- iii. All faculty members called upon to help train the newly-hired advisors be appropriately compensated for their time, knowledge, and experience.
- e. Motion Seconded from Senator Talbert
- f. Motion Passed by vote of 19/19

See Related Advising Minutes from 9/6/16 Meeting

Meeting Adjourned: 5:00 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by Senate Secretary: Chrys Egan 9/13/16, Edited 9/14/16

Minutes Posted by Senate Webmaster: Tom Cawthorn