

# 2022-2023 Annual Council Committee Report

Committee: Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee

Prepared by: Mark Medwid

Date: 4/25/2023

## **Include the following information in your annual report:**

### 1. Members of the committee (including name of the chair)

#### Entire Academic Year

(These are the members of the committee that were able to continue meeting throughout the entire year.)

- Mark Medwid (Faculty Advising Co-Director / Co-Chair)
- Jamie Towle-Weicksel\* (Faculty Advising Co-Director / Co-Chair)
- Christopher Da Costa\*\* (Director, Office of Academic Advising)
- Desirée Ciambro (FAS)
- Ellen Bigler\* (FSEHD)
- Amy Avila (Records)
- Ayden Mudd (Student Member)

\*This spot was occupied by Corinne McKamey during the 2021-2022 academic year; Ellen filled in for the entirety of the 2022-2023 academic year while Corinne has been on leave.

\*\*Lindsay Petrarca (Asst. Director, Office of Academic Advising) filled in for Chris during his family leave.

#### Fall Semester Only

(These committee members were on sabbatical, some other type of leave or were otherwise unable to attend meetings in the Spring.)

- Jamie Towle-Weicksel (Faculty Advising Co-Director / Co-Chair)
- Julie Urda (SoB)
- Wendy Becker (SoSW)
- Lisa Connelly (SoN)
- Maria Lawrence (FSEHD)

### 2. Meeting dates

- October 7, 2022
- November 4, 2022
- December 2, 2022
- February 3, 2023
- April 7, 2023
- April 21, 2023
- May 5, 2023

3. Summary of committee activities (Please also include relevant minutes in an attachment)

All meeting agendas and minutes may be found here (must be logged in to your RIC Microsoft 365 account):

[CoAA - Meeting Agendas 22-23](#)

[CoAA - Meeting Minutes 22-23](#)

The committee met several times throughout the year to work on advising-related issues. We discussed our formal charge from the Executive committee, which consisted of:

1. The advising model at RIC – whether a hybrid model is feasible, and if so, a plan on implementing a transition to a hybrid model.
2. Development of an award for excellence in academic advising, sponsored by the Office of the Provost.

We believed that to start meaningfully working on these charges, we first needed to develop an advising mission statement for the entire college. This was done in consultation with the Office of Academic Advising; the committee workshopped the mission statement and approved it at the December committee meeting.

In the spring, the committee discussed advising at orientation and worked more on the committee charges.

The prospect of incorporating professional advisors is complicated by the nature of the majors in each academic school. Professional advisors are already established with success in the School of Nursing and more recently with the School of Business, but with two largely different approaches. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences is a challenging prospect in which to incorporate professional advisors due to the sheer number and variety of academic programs.

The committee also collaborated with the Office of the Provost in developing a framework for an advising award. This was discussed at length in our regular April meeting, and we held a second meeting in April to finalize and approve the award plan.

4. Decisions approved and actions taken (including proposals approved by Council)

- The Advising Mission Statement was approved by the committee during the December 2 meeting; the approval vote was unanimous. The committee submitted adoption of the mission statement as a proposal to the Executive Committee of Council, but was returned and it was recommended the statement instead be included in context with details about the advising model.

- The Provost's Excellence in Faculty Advising Award was approved by the committee at a special meeting on April 21, and the proposal was approved unanimously. The proposal has been forwarded to the Executive Committee for further consideration.

5. Recommendations for next year's committee

The committee should continue its work next year on the hybrid advising model at the college. In particular, the committee should collect data from faculty members on opinions surrounding the implementation of a hybrid advising model. Once a model has been formed, the committee must then work to solicit feedback from faculty via open comment sessions.

6. Self-evaluation

The biggest hurdle that the committee faced in the spring semester was its lack of active members. We did not have any success in filling vacancies in the committee even with help from the Committee on Committees. This did make the work of the committee more difficult. The hope is that with additional membership, we can make more progress on the issue of the hybrid advising model.

**Please submit your report to Valerie Endress ([yendress@ric.edu](mailto:yendress@ric.edu)) by April 25, 2023.**