Innovation In Academic Advising: Launching New Ideas

GTAAN Best Practices in Academic Advising Conference Program
June 22nd, 2015

7:30 AM: Registration opens
8:00 - 9:00 AM: Breakfast and networking
9:00 - 10:00 AM: Keynote address: Dr. Saundra Yancy McGuire

Auditorium
Using Metacognition to Launch New Ideas in Academic Advising

10:15 - 11:00 AM: Breakout session #1

Auditorium: Stephanie Jackson- International Education for Advisors

If what happens in advising stays with students, advisors have to be more fully equipped to work with increasingly diverse populations. Students have a plethora of co-curricular experiences to navigate, many with global and multi-cultural dimensions. International education does not simply have to be the domain of your institution’s office; rather, advisors can engage in initiatives and programs to share best practices that further develop cultural competencies and also introduce students to new or different learning opportunities. In this session participants will learn of ways to incorporate international education into advising and of professional international experiences, including Fulbright, to strengthen competencies in advising and student services.

Room A: Fran Buser & Enid Steinbart - Say “Yes!” to the Presentation: Improve Your Public Speaking Skills - Specific Skills and Techniques that You Can Employ to Deliver Meaningful Presentations in Advising

Did you know that public speaking is feared more than death? Well, that might be an exaggeration. However, many people exclaim “No!” when asked to give a presentation. Make yourself more valuable to students, colleagues, parents, administrators, and faculty and build confidence as a professional by saying “Yes!” to the presentation.

We will share our experience (Completion of Toastmaster Competent Communication and Competent Leadership Manuals) in areas including: Know and Engage Your Audience, Use of Props and Power Points, Eye Contact, Body Language and Vocal Variety. We will also discuss and demonstrate how one can use key presentation skills to accomplish meaningful group advising in academicians, specifically for (i) new freshmen, (ii) transfer students, (iii) seniors, and (iv) change of major candidates. Gain confidence as a professional. Make yourself more valuable to the students you advise and your colleagues by improving public speaking skills. Say “Yes!” to the presentation.

Room C: Shawn Dommer - Changing The Way They Change

The decision of a student to change their major is an important one with multiple ramifications. With heavy student loads, helping a student to learn enough information to make their decision can be difficult, especially during periods of heightened student appointments with current students. The desire to inform potential change of major students of your curriculum, policies, and expectations often is not well served due to time constraints.

The Scheller College of Business advising team has devised an online module to serve as an information piece for students interested in changing their major to BSBA. The online module serves as a primer for students interested in changing their major and provides critical information about our curriculum, policies and expectations. (continued on page 2)

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Students are then asked to attend a BSBA preparation meeting which will prepare the student to enter the Scheller College of Business after being provided with a credit sheet that shows exactly where their credit will apply in the BSBA degree. Advisors reinforce crucial elements of the program such as course substitutions and concentration choices. Students then choose to go to one of two presentations on either career preparation or study skills.

This session will focus on how the advising team developed the online module and process, its success and areas for improvement.

11.15 AM - 12.00 PM: Breakout session #2

Auditorium: Saundra Yancy McGuire- Using Appreciative Advising to Help Students Excel

Students often come to universities with high aspirations, but with inadequate preparation to excel. This interactive session will present a recently developed advising technique, appreciative advising, that has the potential to facilitate more effective academic advising of these students.

Room A: Christen Steele- Resilience & Grit: STEM Student-Athletes and Academic Persistence

Often college coaches and athletic recruiters speak of top-tier research programs and academic offerings to persuade potential athletes to choose to attend their institutions. But what happens when those students enroll and actually select “difficult majors” within the STEM discipline? Some are swayed to less demanding majors before the first day of classes, while other STEM student-athletes change midway during their academic programs due to any number of challenges they face along the way. Yet, many of these students remain in STEM majors and achieve academic success. When 38 percent of students starting with a STEM major are not graduating with that major (NSF, 2015), I believe that persistence through their degree requirements is defined by their inherent and learned resilience/grit.

This session will address resilience as a predictor of student-athlete academic success and how academic advisors can help student-athletes with the “role conflict” of being both a student pursuing a STEM degree and an athlete. Current and former Division I student-athletes who are earning or have earned STEM degrees will share their personal experiences.

Room C: Danielle Churchill & Jacqueline Pearce- Student Turnaround Success: Tips for Getting Them in the Door

With the numerous tasks and responsibilities our students have on a daily basis, getting them to show up to an optional event is challenging, if not impossible. The Georgia State University Andrew Young School of Policy Studies’ Office of Academic Assistance recently hosted its annual Student Services Day, and saw record attendance.

This presentation will include a discussion on this particular event’s progression from an idea to a functional program, and the factors that contributed to a successful turnout. After hosting the event for three years, data and numbers speak for themselves. Both students and other university offices provided feedback on the event, and the advisors included expressed a positive experience with regard to reaching students in a creative way.

As advisors we are always trying to figure out new ways to get students involved and in front of us for vital advisement sessions. We would like to share with you tips and processes that contributed to this success, and help get your students in the door!

12.00 - 1.15 PM: Lunch

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1.15 - 2.00 PM: Breakout session #3

**Auditorium:** Kristen Norris*, Shawn Dommer, & Lindsay Green: We Can Do That! Developing Assessment Initiatives to Enhance Academic Advising Programs and Advisor Performance

We can do that! Developing assessment initiatives to enhance academic advising program and advisor performance outlines an academic advising team's experience in developing and implementing advising assessment initiatives in an academic unit, specifically in a setting where student evaluation of advising program and individual advisors had not previously taken place. Presentation attendees will gain insight into the first three years of the unit's assessment processes and experiences.

By breaking down the step-by-step process of developing an annual academic advising assessment survey, the following learning objectives will be addressed: identifying when academic advising assessment is needed, understanding how to start an academic advising assessment initiative, determining evaluation tools, utilizing results to enhance advising program and individual advisor performance, and capturing data that is provided through reporting systems/structures already in place.

The goal of this presentation is to provide advisors with a foundational model of starting an academic advising assessment initiative. This presentation is appropriate for advisors who currently do not implement assessment initiatives.

**Room A:** Emily Dolezal- Optional Practical Training (OPT) Basics: Advising International Students on Working in the U.S.

As an academic advisor, you're likely seeing an increase in the number of questions from international students about working in the U.S. This session will seek to demystify international student work authorization through the process of defining common terms, expected timelines, and Office of International Education resources for students. We will also discuss the rise of summer internships and how students should prepare.

This discussion-based presentation will allow participants to learn the basics and then have time to ask their questions to an experienced international student advisor. While some information may be Georgia Tech specific, this workshop will benefit anyone who works with international students.

**Room C:** Karen Houston & Wayne Thompson- Empowering Today's Students with Innovative Options in Career Exploration

Well established cooperative education programs have adopted new methods of advising as it applies to the changing needs of today's students. Each generation of students approach experiential education and career exploration different than the previous generation. Successful programs now, and in the future, will need to explore flexibility, change and adaptability to discover ways to holistically educate students on career exploration. The traditional methods that have brought success within cooperative education programs have not been abandoned, they have been improved and expanded upon.

Current climates within academic institutions have created opportunities to consolidate internal organizations that share a common mission. In the Fall semester of 2014 the Division of Professional Practice merged with Career Services to become the Center for Career Discovery & Development, or C2D2. The new organization's mission is to educate and encourage students to take advantage of the opportunities and services provided to them through the Student Education Team within C2D2.

This presentation will discuss new methods that Career Advisors have implemented to creatively advise and enhance the relationship with our cooperative education and internship students. The advisor's focus is to enhance what has worked in the past, with a new emphasis on thinking "outside the box" to develop stronger relationships with our students and to create new ways to better equip them. These new ideas have allowed the advisors to collaborate effectively with students, employers and other constituents within Georgia Tech.

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2.15 - 3.00 PM: Breakout session #4


How does an advisor with a large student load perform intrusive advising? By leveraging technology! This presentation will present a practical approach to intrusive academic modeling using the Internet and Google products.

- Room A: Karen Jackson & Wendy Anderson - The GROW Program: An Alternative to Academic Suspension

Academic suspension or opportunity to GROW? Georgia Gwinnett College (GCC) offers its students who have been academically suspended a unique second chance opportunity. Students in academic suspension may have the opportunity to return to school after their suspension period if they have taken measures to improve their academic skills. However, many students do not return, and those who do, are unsure of how to improve their skills while separated from the college. This is challenging for access institutions, where many students are first generation students facing additional challenges. In an effort to help academically suspended students improve their skills and stay connected to the college, GCC developed the Grizzly Renewal Opportunity Workshops (GROW) Program.

The objective of the GROW program is to facilitate academic recovery through self-reflection and the development of academic success skills. The GROW program allows students the opportunity to improve their skills while continuing their education during their suspension period. Students enroll in a reduced course load, and with their advisor, develop a personalized academic improvement plan (AIP) that includes appropriate activities and interventions to support academic success. Students “GROW” through advisor-guided one-on-one workshops that focus on the development of a vision book, goal setting, time management, study and note taking skills, and “mid-term madness.” Preliminary data indicate students who fully participate in the program experience academic success.

This presentation will explain the program’s development and will provide detailed descriptions of program requirements, activities, challenges, and lessons learned from the pilot program.

- Room C: Charlie Hammonds - Advising International Exchange Students

International exchange students play a unique role on campus. As counterparts to GT students on study abroad programs, exchange students play an important role in strengthening faculty, departmental and institutional relationships with the finest STEM schools around the world. They increase our overall diversity and add to our institutional plan of internationalizing all aspects of our campus. As administrative and academic advisors, we have a unique opportunity to promote Georgia Tech by helping these students have a great experience while they are on campus.

The purpose of this session is to provide information to academic and administrative advisors about our international exchange population: who they are, where they come from, why they matter, and how to work with them. We hope that attendees will walk away feeling empowered to work with these students, and proud of their place at Georgia Tech. In particular, we’ll discuss certain specific advising situations that arise with exchange students. In addition, we will provide some background on the J-1 exchange visitor program, and discuss the Office of International Education’s role in bringing these students to campus, sending others abroad, and promoting US cultural experiences to our short-term visitors.

3.00 - 3.30 PM: Networking and evaluations

**Thank you for attending Best Practices 2015! We hope to see you at the next Best Practices event!**

Please fill out the conference evaluation form (in your folder) before you leave. Thanks!

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