

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

UWEC Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management is proposing a change to the University's policy on required advising prior to registration beginning AY 2019-2020. Required contact each semester will allow academic advisors to discuss with students their overall progress in their academic programs, follow-up on persistent and new issues/challenges and provide a consistent level of support throughout their time at the University.

Current Catalog Web Page: <http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-regulations/registration/>

Current Policy:

Advising is required prior to registration for

1. all freshmen and sophomores,
2. juniors and seniors on academic warning or probation,
3. transfers seeking a first degree, and
4. all students with a major in the College of Business regardless of classification or academic standing.

Proposed Policy:

Advising is required prior to registration for all undergraduate degree-seeking students.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. ARCC staffing additions needed to implement the policy change
2. Current ARCC academic advising loads (300 to 1) vs. Proposed ARCC academic advising loads (350-400 to 1) without additional staff added
3. Student perspectives on proposed policy change (see attached student resolution)
4. Department Chairs/Program Director feedback on proposed policy change (see attachment)
5. Impact on faculty advising workload
6. Access to student PAC codes (Academic advisors will release hold vs. Faculty advisors)
7. Accountability of the student advising process (completion of appointment detail form in CampS)
8. Availability of academic advisors with increase workload, especially during peak registration time
9. Impact of policy on student/faculty advisor relationship
10. Flexibility within individual departments to implement the proposed policy change
11. Lack of flexibility within proposed policy to address concerns from departments/programs
12. Limited or no data provided to demonstrate effectiveness of proposed policy change

Pros of Recommendation:

For majors with higher advising load, the change is welcomed. Student resolution supported policy change if faculty advisors are intentionally involved in the process. Increases accountability efforts on behalf of ARCC and Enrollment Management.

Cons of Recommendation:

Policy change may result in new hires for ARCC and less resources to hire IAS/Tenure-Track faculty. ARCC academic advisors are not well versed to provide career and graduate/professional school information to upper classmen. Faculty advisors are more suited for this endeavor. For majors with lower advising load, the change is unwelcomed because current policy has already resulted in diminished student/faculty advisor contact.

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

ARCC's current staff capacity may not be able to handle the work load without drastically reducing time spent on advising visits for all students.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee approved the change to the University's policy on required advising prior to registration. The approval is based on the need for University Senate to weigh in on the proposal.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 6 for to 1 against on May 7, 2019 (Date)

Recommends that:

The change to the University's policy on required advising prior to registration starting 2019-2020 AY:

Implementation Date: 19/20 catalog

Signed: _____

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office