

Idaho State University  
**Council for Teaching and Learning**  
Minutes

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

4:00 PM

Faculty Senate Conference Room REND 301

In Attendance: Groome (Chair), Ford, Hill, Leung, Neill, Reis, Rhoads,  
Excused: Enos, Knudson, Reynolds (Vice-Chair)  
Absent: Wong, Eley, Diedrich, Rudd,  
Non-voting: Wallace (Recording Secretary)  
Guest: JoAnn Hertz, Director of Academic Advising

A quorum was not present, so no voting took place. Minutes from the previous meeting were not yet available and will be presented at the next meeting on December 9.

The meeting was opened with members each voicing their definition of “advising”. Most members agreed that faculty advisors help students. Members noted there was no clear-cut boundary between advising and counseling and were uncertain where the faculty role stops and that of Central Advising office begins. The Council’s guest, Joanne Hertz from Academic Advising, said faculty advisors should offer their help and expertise to help students with these essential elements in the advising process:

- Career and Job Choices
- Resources Available at ISU
- Number of Courses (Load) that is considered Reasonable
- Course sequencing
- Schedule Building and Registration Tips
- Balancing “Other” into the Academic Schedule – work, finances, home life. Not counseling, but advice on time management and feasibility of the student’s schedule.
- Focus on Performance and Expectations

These elements are all part of the essential role of the advisor in “guiding the student towards the successful completion of their goal, whether that goal comprises an academic degree or not.

Another topic raised was the issue of merit and credit for advising. Several points of view were offered including use of a workload document, differences across departments and colleges with regards to “credit” for advising, and how much time spent on advising is “normal” and is the time spent consistent with a positive culture of advising at ISU to retain students and help them be successful.

A separate topic discussed was that of faculty experiences in advising and their training to be advisors. The committee discussed different mechanisms of advising and the extent (typically quite limited) to which formal or informal training had been provided by their department in their first semester at ISU or thereafter.

From these discussions and Dr. Neill's comments regarding the culture of advising at ISU, and Dr. Fords reinforcing input regarding of our need to retain students, the Chair summarized the discussion by offering his synopsis of the discussion as one in which a Mission Statement for Advising at ISU should incorporate elements describing the need for a Positive Culture of Advising at ISU, that Advisors have adequate resources and training to reinforce such a culture, and that Advising should be appropriately recognized at this institution as an Activity of Merit.

The next meeting was planned for Dec 9 at 4 PM in the Faculty Senate Room, ISU Rendevous Building Rm 301.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. James Groome, Chair  
Council for Teaching and Learning

Approved by Council for Teaching and Learning: December 9, 2008  
Accepted by Faculty Senate: December 15, 2008