A Multi-Institutional Study of Student & Faculty Perspectives on Academic Advising

Project:

Researchers at Portland State University are conducting student and faculty advising surveys at seven (7) Oregon institutions: PSU, OSU, WOU, UO, Concordia, University of Portland, and Portland Community College in Winter 2010. The survey was developed by the PSU team, and piloted at PSU, Concordia University, and Washington State University in 2008 & 2009. This is a coordinated effort to ask faculty and professional advisors and students about their views of and satisfaction with advising. The survey is not grounded in a critique of any delivery model or advisor function.

In Phase One, a survey is administered which focuses on 12 important advising functions identified in the student academic affairs literature and asks students to rank the importance of and satisfaction with these functions, and for faculty, the importance of, responsibility for, and their satisfaction with these functions. In Phase Two, the longitudinal enrollment patterns of students are examined to see whether attitudes about and experiences with advising predict retention and degree completion.

Logistics:

- Preparatory work is being done between PSU Institutional Research and each institution’s IR teams to ensure appropriate data collection.

- Survey is individualized to each campus in describing advising delivery, for example, but not to a degree that compromises the validity of the overall findings.

- Date for survey distribution is Winter 2010 (February-March).

- Students will be offered an incentive to participate (an opportunity to win one of four $50 gift certificates to the Duck Store).

- Survey is distributed to all faculty (all instructional faculty [involved in teaching, not exclusively research] and professional advisors with at least a .5 FTE appointment at the University of Oregon in winter term 2010) and undergraduates (fully admitted undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Oregon during winter term 2010) for completion.

- Students and faculty will receive an email inviting them to complete a Web-based survey about academic advising that can be accessed through an embedded link (approximately two days before undergraduate registration for spring term 2010 commences).
Each survey consists of questions about 12 advising functions that operationalize 5 domains identified by Smith and Allen (2006) as essential to quality academic advising.

**Integration (Holistic Advising)**

1. Advising that helps students connect their academic, career, and life goals
2. Advising that helps students choose among courses in the major that connect their academic, career, and life goals
3. Advising that assists students with choosing among the various general education options that connect their academic, career, and life goals
4. Advising that assists students with deciding what kind of degree to pursue in order to connect their academic, career, and life goals
5. Advising that assists students with choosing out-of-class activities that connect their academic, career, and life goals

**Referral**

6. When students need it, referral to campus resources that address academic problems
7. When students need it, referral to campus resources that address non-academic problems

**Information**

8. Assisting students with understanding how things work at this university
9. Providing students accurate information about degree requirements

**Individuation**

10. Taking into account students’ skills, abilities, and interests in helping them choose courses
11. Knowing the student as an individual

**Shared Responsibility**

12. Encouraging students to assume responsibility for their education by helping them develop planning, problem-solving, and decision-making skills