The University Academic Advising Committee (UAAC) is an organization formed during semester conversion in the late 1990’s to address the needs and issues for advising undergraduate students at The University of Utah. Committee members include representatives from each academic college as well as Student Affairs and Academic Affairs offices, Athletics, and Office of Equity and Diversity. UAAC is co-chaired by a representative of the University College and a representative from a degree granting college. The committee meets once every month, (except one summer month) to discuss policy issues, receive updates on campus issues, and reflect upon advising within the institutional mission.

The campus-wide advisor mission statement is:

*As educators and problem solvers, we advocate for students as they navigate their personal journey of higher education and attain their academic goals. Through inclusion and connection, we open doors to new opportunities for self-awareness and growth, empowering students to define their roles as citizens within local and global communities.*

Meetings averaged 50 people in attendance with minutes distributed over the UAAC listserv and on the UAAC website (http://advising.utah.edu/uaac/). David Eisen is the author of the monthly meeting minutes, and Tammy Mabey assists UAAC with logistical support.

**2013-14**

The following information is a brief review of activities and events that involved UAAC and highlights of monthly meetings:

- During the 2013-14 UAAC meetings, presentations were made on:
  - BlockU
  - Plan to Finish and Plan 4
  - Honors College - Updates
  - Online Catalog - Aculog
  - New process for Leave of Absence from Registrar’s Office
  - Learning Enhancement Program
  - Reorganization of Financial Aid and Scholarship Office to 2 separate entities
  - Updates on Commencement since it moved to Thursday evening
  - Cognitive Science minor
  - English Language Institute
  - Update on Pre-requisite Checking in Chemistry
• Childcare Coordinating Office
• Dean of Students Office
• International Initiatives - Global U
• Math Bootcamp & New Initiatives from Continuing Education
• Language & Literature - Completing the BA Language Requirement
• The Writing Program
• The Diversity Scholars Program
• Updates on new course offering or changes to current offerings

• UAAC members received periodic updates on Major EXPO, DARS/GPS, Mandatory Advising Program, items from Office of Admissions, items from Office of Financial Aid, items from Office of Orientation and items from Registrar’s.

• UAAC sponsored a scholarship for academic advisors to attend the 2013 NACADA Annual Conference in Salt Lake City and a one year membership to NACADA. The recipients were
  ▪ Rachel Osterman (University College / Fine Arts)
  ▪ Tivra Marks (Athletics)
  ▪ Jill Wilson (Economics)
  ▪ Elizabeth Archuleta (Ethnic Studies)
  ▪ Kelly Olson (Computing)

• UAAC has three sub-committees to engage advisors in the advising policy and practice. These three sub-groups accomplished:
  o Advisor Awards Sub-committee co-chaired by Martina Stewart and Shari Lindsey.
    ▪ This group of advisors refined the UAAC Advisor Awards process, facilitated the process for 2013-14, and nominated 2012-13 UAAC Award winners for NACADA Awards for 2014. The NACADA nominations were Bobbi Davis and Jennifer Wozab.
    ▪ The UAAC Advisor Awards were expanded to three awards with a process that included a review by individuals outside of academic advising. In May 2014, Jason Barkemeyer, Mayumi Kasai, and Samantha Brody received these awards at the Annual Advisor Social.
  o Marketing and Public Relations Subcommittee co-chaired by Taunya Dressler and Sharon Aiken-Wisniewski.
    ▪ This group focused on promoting the image of advising at the U of U.
    ▪ The group worked with Marketing and Communication to hold 2 focus groups that addressed the broad topics of advising perception and advising utopia. One focus group was advisors and the second was students. One more focus group for faculty will occur in the Fall. From this information, the group will begin work on delivering a purposeful message about academic advising.
    ▪ The committee proposed to the advising community 2 taglines that were
adopted for use within the campus community. These are:

- Academic Advising: Planning with Purpose
- Academic Advising: Create, Navigate, Educate

o The Advisor Position Subcommittee co-chaired by Gina Shipley and Jessica Taverna.
  - This group focused on examining the advisor classification with respect to responsibilities, reporting lines, training, and compensation.
  - The work of this group was delivered to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Council of Academic Deans (CAD) in presentation format. The information presented addressed tasks and responsibilities of the advisor position, retention of advisors, HR classification, and needs. The needs focused on hiring, training, development, and data collection. Recommendations included more advising positions that utilize the “Bridge Advising Model” and more resources for hiring and developing advisors. Advisors were interested in tools for better data collection.

o Graduation Application Process Task Force was chaired by Lena May-Fraser concluded its work in July 2013. The work of this Task Force resulted in a survey to advisors from the Registrar’s Office, changes to the graduation application, and increased communication with the Graduation Office in The Registrar’s area.

- The UAAC website was updated after every meeting to provide information for those who could not attend the meetings. It is at http://advising.utah.edu/uaac/
- The Athletics Department sponsored an academic advisor night at the January 2 Basketball game with the University of Oregon. Thank you to Erik Weierholt and his staff for supporting advising in this way.
- UAAC sponsored a food drive to support the “Take What You Need – Give What You Can” Food Box in the Counseling Center. Response was exceptional!
- In addition to the monthly meetings, UAAC maintains an active listserv for announcements, a web page at http://advising.utah.edu/uaac/, a yearly conference, and supports the Coordinator for Advisor Education and Development but advertising and promoting these events.
- All meetings are open to the public. Find dates, times, and locations for these and other events at http://advising.utah.edu/uaac/
Photos: UAAC Advisor’s Social

Photo right: Dr. Ruth Watkins addresses advisors at the Advisor Social – Academic Advising Awards Ceremony.

Photo left: Sharon Aiken-Wisniewski, Mayumi Kasai, Jason Barkemeyer, Samantha Brodey, Shari Lindsey