

Denise Brenes

Director, Academic Advising Office, School of Biology



What is your vision for UAAC during your time as co-chair?

Over the last few years, advising on the U of U campus has been transforming. This has mainly been due to our own efforts in advocating for our profession and our roles in transforming lives. We have come a long way but we can continue to go further. UAAC can be the starting place for advisors to enhance professional development, engage in best practices, and become a unified advising voice. As a unified advising voice, we can better advocate for the needs of advisors, as well as; transforming our campus community. Now is the time for UAAC in leading transformational change in the advising community and we should be the ones leading that change.

How do you meet the qualifications, and how does your experience qualify you to lead the advising community as UAAC co-chair?

I have over 15 years of Higher Education experience. Prior to coming to the U, I worked in Career Services at Amarillo Community College in Amarillo, TX. At the U I have had the pleasure of working in Emergency Medicine and PharmD graduate programs. As well as, the History and Biological Sciences undergraduate programs. I have worked with faculty, deans, graduate and undergraduate students, including a variety of staffing personal (IT, Accounting, Administrative Managers, Development Directors, etc.). I have been a part of curriculum reform, accreditation processes, and transfer initiatives. I have also been responsible for white coat, graduation, admissions and scholarship processes. I know and understand a lot of backend university policies and procedures. In other words, I can take the bull by the horns

What are the main challenges you see facing the advising community over the next few years?

Challenge 1: The demands of advisors is constantly increasing. How can we as a community address the demands on advisors, while better supporting one another? We have helped increase student retention, can we help address advisor retention?

Challenge 2: Student needs are changing. The advising community should be proactive in keeping up on student needs and addressing those changes through our training, professional development, and core values. We should be seen as a team player by student affairs and have a stronger voice in UGS.