

# Madeline Rencher

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

My vision for UAAC is to continue to build a strong sense of community among advisors on this campus. The advising profession is such a unique blend of responsibilities and roles. The title of 'Advisor' definitely does not incorporate all of what our roles entail. This profession is incredibly multi-faceted, and I have enjoyed being able to connect and interact with advisors across campus, who I would not have had the opportunity to engage with otherwise. We have the ability to learn from each other, which I have always looked forward to during our meetings.

I have witnessed confusion from students and parents in what our roles as advisors are; their perception often stemming from a lack of knowledge of the advising profession. Being able to come together as a group is invaluable; as we are able to showcase who we are and what we do. I would love to support UAAC in growing this sense of community, alongside providing professional development opportunities. Although our roles as advisors can vary within our respective areas across campus, our goal to support students serves as our common foundation and purpose

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

Since joining the AAC as an advisor in January 2019, I immediately wanted to be involved with UAAC. There is an enormous benefit in maintaining this advising community; not only to connect and share best practices, but also to support one another and create collaborative experiences. Previous to working at the U, I served in various roles in higher education during my Master's and undergraduate experiences. As a student leader I mentored/advised a group of 32 students as they navigated their first year at the University of Utah. I have had extensive leadership experience through supervising these students, as well as through additional leadership roles during academic journey. I have served as the UAAC Recorder since the spring of this year, showcasing my initiative and desire to be involved with this community. Additionally, having completed my undergraduate degrees at the University of Utah, I am well-versed in the dynamics of this campus and the importance of campus partnerships. I have the desire to be an active and committed Co-Chair, being present and involved in helping ensure this community continues as a resource for all advisors on campus to come together to learn, grow, and connect.

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

The first challenge I see facing the advising community is that of our roles, and how they are portrayed and understood to both students and parents. I see this challenge each day, when there are students in my office who see my role as just someone who removes their holds. Our roles as advisors are SO much more than this, but I see challenges in having students realize what we are here for and how we can support them. A visible presence of UAAC is one of many ways we can overcome this challenge.

The second challenge is the different ways students of today need to be approached. I run the two social media accounts for my office, one for AAC and the other for PPA. We are in a day and age where the methods of reaching students have drastically changed. Being able to efficiently utilize new digital methods, as advisors we have the opportunity to showcase that we can adapt and change to an ever-changing world. Meeting student needs by being proactive is a great way UAAC can support student success.