

Faculty Senate Resolution 07-08-13

Freshman Academic Advising

WHEREAS the Center for Student Excellence (CSE) was set up to advise all new freshmen as a result of the Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) response to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and was based on the "total intake model," and

WHEREAS the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Committee had envisioned that during orientation incoming freshmen would be advised by both the academic departments (undergraduate coordinator, department head, and faculty) and the CSE (senior advisor and college advisors) and then the freshmen would see their CSE advisor at least once in the fall and again in the spring of their freshman year to be advised for subsequent semesters, and

WHEREAS some academic departments (especially those with few majors) were not happy with this arrangement because they wanted to advise the students for courses to be taken in their sophomore year, and

WHEREAS based on that complaint, the administration made the decision that all freshmen would be sent to their academic departments for advising during their second semester, and

WHEREAS this decision was not welcomed by other departments (especially those with large numbers of majors), because of the suddenness of the decision and the short notice to prepare, and

WHEREAS many of those departments were in the process of developing the "mentoring" plans, which, according to QEP, envision faculty mentors' spending more time with sophomores and above, and advising large numbers of freshmen reduces the time that can be spent "mentoring," and

WHEREAS many of the Center advisors were also disappointed by this decision because they had planned on using spring advising to discuss other freshman concerns besides course selection and to establish a closer relationship with the freshmen, and

WHEREAS some departments have entrance requirements for majors or criteria for full admittance to their program, with the expectation that these student would remain "pre-majors" and be advised by the Center until they had met these requirements, and

WHEREAS these requirements have been largely ignored and all freshmen are sent to their departments regardless of whether they met the criteria in the catalog, and

WHEREAS many freshmen change their majors during or after their freshman year and thus could have been better advised at the Center:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate ask the administration to consider the following solutions or alternative procedures—

1. Leave the decision up to the individual departments on when to start advising the students, or
2. Base the decision on certain criteria, such as grade-point average (GPA) made in the first semester, where for instance, the freshmen who made above 2.5 or 3.0 would be advised by their academic department for the second semester while those who made less than a 2.5 or 3.0 would continue to be advised by CSE, or such as departmental criteria in the *General Catalogue* for departments which have criteria, or
3. Do some combination of 1 and 2.

[Adopted by the Faculty Senate on 2008 May 7]