The CLA Advising News

Student Affairs and Advising Center (SAAC)
College of Liberal Arts
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NACADA – a faculty advisor’s experience

During spring 2010, Professor Janelle Wilson received a national advising award from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). Recently, she was recognized at the national conference in Orlando, FL. While at the conference she attended the following advising sessions:

”Hitting All the Parks: Exploring Motivation for Multiple Majors and Minors”
”A Decade of Student-Athlete Reform: Evaluating Academic Advisors’ Understanding, Perception, and Practice of NCAA Academic Regulations”
”Liberal Arts for an Unscripted World”
”Liberal Arts Majors: Career-enders or Skill-builders”

Professor Wilson shares her experience at the conference:

’Upon my return to campus following my time at the conference, I had a meeting with a student who had contacted me the previous week wanting to set up an appointment to discuss whether or not he should pursue adding a third major to his current double major. At the time that he and I were making the appointment, my gut reaction was that the addition of a third major would not necessarily be in his best interest. Well, as it turns out, the session I attended on “Motivation for Multiple Majors and Minors,” was directly relevant to this upcoming appointment and it provided me with actual data that I could draw upon in advising the student. For example, in the particular study that researchers from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill conducted, a key finding was that, in a sample of recruiting employers, only seven percent indicated that having more than one major is valuable. In this sample, 36% of the recruiting employers stated that the value of more than one major is dependent upon the particular combination of majors. In short, having multiple majors is not as valuable as students may think it is.

This session also reported findings from studies in which college students comprised the samples. Given my interest in (and past research on) generational characteristics and identity, I was especially interested to learn about some of the motivations that Millennial Generation students have for adding Majors and Minors. Some of the factors affecting their decisions include potential career advancement, wanting all classes to “count,” and family pressures – for example, a student may really have a passion for Sociology, let’s say, but her parents may express concern about job prospects and thus the student may add Business as a second major. What I gained from this session prepared me well for my meeting with the Double-Major who was considering adding a third major. I asked him these questions: ”Why do you want to add this major? Do you have a passion for this major?

(continued...)
Impact of late grades this fall 2010

Due to the furlough days this year, grades for fall 2010 must be submitted by January 6. This impacts many processes in student affairs (probation and Dean’s List), financial aid, on-campus housing and more.

Faculty are encouraged to submit their grades on time.

Moodle site for UMD Advisors

Moodle course name: UMD Advisors

This Moodle site was created as a place for advisors to access and share resources, practices, tools, and information with one another.

First time users need a self-enrollment key (password). The password is "Advise".

* ANNOUNCEMENT *

CLA Learning Community Program will be discontinued

CLA’s Learning Community Program for undeclared first-year students will be discontinued after fall semester 2010. The Student Affairs and Advising Center will be focusing on other advising priorities and models.

* Reminder *

Declaring CLA majors (current CLA students)

Departmental representative meeting with CLA students declaring or changing their major, please remember the following:

- First, verify they are a CLA student. If they are not, send them to our office. They will need to file a UMD Change of College application to transfer to CLA.
- Second, if the student is dropping a major and declaring a new major, please state this in the comment section online.
- Third, the amount of text in the comment section is limited. If you need to provide more information, send an email to clasa@d.umn.edu.
- Online form for departmental representatives to enter information: http://www.d.umn.edu/~clasa/howto/declaremajor.php

Impact of late grades this fall 2010

Are you adding it for the right reasons?” Our meeting went very well. The student admitted that it wasn’t genuine interest or passion that was prompting him to contemplate adding a third major; rather, he thought it would “look good,” and he also thought that it might not be that hard to pick up the third major along with his other majors. I told him that, of course, it is his decision, but it may be more valuable for him to consider applying for a UROP or pursuing departmental honors (his GPA qualifies him for this). The student, who is currently a junior, is considering graduate school. I suggested that these other pursuits would likely be more valuable than adding yet another major.

The other sessions I attended also provided relevant and helpful insights that I can draw upon both in my teaching and advising. I feel that my attendance at the NACADA conference has already positively impacted my own teaching and advising endeavors, and that it has the potential to also enhance my colleagues’ endeavors and, most importantly, CLA students’ experiences.

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Advisement & Registration for New Students Spring 2011

Monday, November 15 from 12-4, Kirby Ballroom

Monday, December 13 from 12-4, Kirby Ballroom

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.