

## President's Council

January 20, 2011

*"Good advising may be the single most underestimated characteristic of a successful college experience."* (Richard Light, Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds)

- **SACS Statement on the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)**

CBU must demonstrate: (1) an inclusive, broad-based process that focuses on issues tied to institutional assessment; (2) a focus on student learning outcomes and an environment supportive of student learning, and these with a view to advancing CBU's mission; (3) institutional capability for developing, implementing, and completing our Plan; (4) broad-based support and involvement in the development and implementation of the Plan; and (5) clear identification of the intended outcomes of our QEP and a reasonable, feasible assessment plan. (Core Requirement 2.12 of the Handbook for Institutions Seeking Reaffirmation)

- **Definition of Academic Advising at Christian Brothers University**

Academic advising is an intentional process through which a qualified representative of Christian Brothers University assists students in achieving meaningful academic, vocational, and personal goals within a culture of shared responsibility.

- **CBU Advising Program Mission Statement**

Academic advising at Christian Brothers University is a teaching and learning process dedicated to student success. It engages students in creating dynamic plans to realize their personal, educational, and career goals and in developing commitments to lifelong learning and service to society.

*"[Academic advising] is perhaps the only structured campus endeavor that can guarantee [student] interaction with a caring and concerned adult who can help them shape a meaningful learning experience for themselves."* (M. S. Hunter and E. R. White, Penn State University)

*“Academic advising can and should play a pivotal role in directing student behavior toward those activities that will nurture and support their success toward educational, career, and life goal achievement.”*  
(Susan M. Campbell and Charlie L. Nutt, “Academic Advising in the New Global Century” in *Peer Review*)

- **Desired Student Learning Outcomes (Academic Advising)**

- 1. Students will craft educational plans based on assessment of abilities, goals, interests, and values.**
  - a. Students will engage in realistic self-appraisal.
  - b. Students will identify the goals of academic advising.
  - c. Students will understand the respective roles and responsibilities of advisor and advisee.
- 2. Students will implement educational plans tailored to attain their educational and professional goals.**
  - a. Students will articulate the connection between their major field of study and desired career path.
  - b. Students will incorporate curricular and extra-curricular elements – and will consider including service on campus and in the community – into their educational plans.
  - c. Students will access appropriate support services to address their particular needs.
- 3. Students will assume responsibility for meeting academic program requirements.**
  - a. Students will use appropriate resources to observe educational requirements, policies, procedures, and opportunities in their educational plans.
  - b. Students will use appropriate planning guides to prepare a preliminary course schedule prior to consulting with their academic advisors.
  - c. Students will identify the four major learning goals of the general education program as well as the student learning outcomes associated with each goal.
  - d. Students will regularly review and adjust their academic plans in consultation with their advisors.
- 4. Students will develop a sense of social responsibility.**
  - a. Students will explain Lasallian educational principles of faith, community, and service.
  - b. Students will learn and practice academic behaviors conducive to student success and to respectful interactions with faculty, staff, and other students.
  - c. Students will identify several key components of professional ethics related to career choices.

*“Effective retention programs have come to understand that academic advising is at the very core of successful institutional efforts to educate and retain students . . . . Retention is not the goal – the goal is providing quality educational experiences that affect the commitment of students . . . the extent that students become academically and socially integrated into the formal and informal academic and social systems of an institution often determine their departure decisions.” (Vincent Tinto, Leaving College)*

- **CBU Advising Program Outcomes**

- Advisors will participate in faculty development and training opportunities
- Advisors will learn about institutional advising policies, practices, and procedures in the context of national norms
- Advisors will have access to current research on advising and will acquire resources for updating their knowledge
- Advisors will understand culture and gender differences that may affect communication with advisees
- Advisors will understand ethical and legal aspects of advising
- Advisors will have access to current information about curriculum requirements, including general education core, major requirements, and course sequencing
- Advisors will receive training in the use of technologies needed for advising
- Advisors will learn about academic resources and student services available to students
- Advisors will have access to information about student opportunities for academic, career, and personal development

- **CBU Advisor Responsibilities**

- Advisors will be available and accessible to advisees
- Advisors will respond to student correspondence in a timely manner.
- Advisors will interact with students in ways that foster mutual respect
- Advisors will provide accurate information regarding the curriculum, including the general education core, major requirements, course co- and prerequisites, and course sequencing
- Advisors will help students create and revise an educational plan
- Advisors will monitor student progress
- Advisors will use placement scores appropriately
- Advisors will refer students to academic resources and student services, when appropriate
- Advisors will help students identify opportunities for academic, career, and personal development
- Advisors will help advisees achieve the student learning outcomes for academic advising