More Than a Number: Efficient & Effective Academic Advising

David W.W. Jones
North Carolina State University
The Students Are…

The most important persons on campus. Without them there would be no need for the institution.

Not cold enrollment statistics but flesh and blood human beings with feelings and emotions like our own.

Not those to be tolerated so that we can do our thing. They are our thing.

Not dependent on us; rather, we are dependent on them.

Not an interruption of our work, but the purpose of it.

We are not doing them a favor be serving them. They are doing us a favor by giving us the opportunity to do so.
Who are our Students???

93% of college student report being in good or excellent health…yet, 33% say over the past year they have felt so depressed that it was difficult to function.

- Suicidal
- Rape/Sexual Assault
- Panic Attacks
- Trauma
- Delusional
- Eating Disorders
Where we are headed...

• Look at our students developmentally

• Discuss methods to connect you and your students… (Best Practices)

• Discuss student emails and our responses

• Get some tools for your toolbox
Developmental Advising

“...is concerned...with facilitating the student’s rational processes, environmental and interpersonal interactions, behavioral awareness, and problem-solving, decision-making, and evaluating skills.”

Crookston 1972/1994
Developmental Tasks

• First Year
  – Make the transition to the university environment
  – Considering academic abilities in a new light
  – Connecting with peers
Developmental Tasks

• Second Year
  – Exploring meaning and purpose;
    “how does school connect to my life?”
  – Connecting with faculty to understand major/discipline
  – Connecting with new groups of peers
• Third Year
  – Connecting with co-curricular opportunities that build skills
  – Developing work-related experiences
  – Becoming more confident in the classroom
Fourth Year / Final Year

• Fourth Year
  – Moving closer to an initial career path
  – Preparing to leave the educational environment
  – Making a plan for the future
Developmental Advising & Communication

Best Practices

• Think about where they are “year wise”
  Ex: A first year vs. a fourth year student

?? What are some things to discuss with a first year student ??
A fourth year ??
Best Practices

• Consider what might be going on in a student’s life.
  – Finances
  – Illness
  – Family
  – Expectations, fear of failure
  – Relationships
Developmental Advising & Communication

Best Practices - Departmental

• Consider departmental consistency for how, when and why students are advised
  – By appointment
  – Length of Time
  – Outcome, Purpose
Best Practices – University Advising

• Consider how other resources on campus could benefit students outside your department
  – Health Center
  – Tutoring Center
  – Counseling Center
  – Financial Aid Office
  – Study Abroad Office
  – Student Life & Activities Union
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Best Practices – Thoughts & Suggestions

– Communicate to students the best way to contact you
– Create a cheat sheet of quick references
– Create files for all your advisees (paper or e-files)
– Don’t be afraid to ask your colleagues for help
– Avoid giving wrong or inaccurate information
– Dual Role: Advocate for the student and liaison for the university (not adversarial)
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Remember….

– They’re afraid
– They’re whole future is ahead of them
– This could be the first time they’re away from home
– You are now assuming a parental type role

– You can help them become unafraid
– You can show them how to take charge of their future
– You can help them learn to be independent
– You can help them make decisions on their own
Developmental Advising & Communication

Thank You

David W.W. Jones, Ph.D
Associate Professor
Undergraduate Coordinator, Agricultural Sciences
dwjones@ncsu.edu