

# Where's the Help? Creating and Supporting a Community of New Academic Advisors with No Formal Budget

**ADVISING & ACADEMIC SERVICES** 







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"Knowing that I have a supportive group where I can ask questions and get advice on best practices makes it so easy to adjust to my new role."

#### POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- ABOUT CSUSB
- History of New Advisors Group
- Purpose
- Communication
- Meeting Themes & Activities
- Professional Development
- Resources
- What's come out of the New Advisors Group



- **1965**
- Public four-year university and post-baccalaureate
- 23 campuses in CSU system
- 10 week quarter system







#### **Academic Colleges**

- Arts & Letters
- **Business & Public Administration**
- **Natural Sciences**
- Social & Behavioral Sciences



#### **Departments**

- Advising & Academic Services
- Athletics
- **Extended Learning**
- Educational Opportunity Program
- Student Assistance in Learning



### NEED FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Sofranco 2014 states, "The top incentive for participating in professional development activities included ability to better assist students, professional growth, and personal growth as well as opportunities to engage in lifelong learning and networking."

Taken from Beyond Foundations:

Developing as a Master Academic Advisor



## **Undergraduate Academic Advising Council**

- The CSUSB Undergraduate Academic Advising Council provides a positive, innovative and inspirational influence on building the highest quality advising support for all undergraduate students as they strive for a successful academic experience.
- Collaborate with and be a support forum for faculty, staff and peer advisors involved in academic advising.

## How it all started

#### October – November 2014

- 7 new advisors
- Undergraduate Studies
  - Dean, Associate Dean, Assistant Dean
- 1 initial meeting (introductions)
- 1 "coffee break" meeting

#### **November 2015 - Present**

- November 2015 Started New Advisors Group in
- December 11, 2015 First meeting
  - 4 advisors
    - 3 advisors Advising & Academic Services
    - 1 advisor Student Assistance in Learning
- Reached out to advisors with 3 year less advising experience
- No oversight from Undergraduate Studies
  - No Administration

- 20 meetings since December 2015
  - Average attendance per meeting 12 advisors
- 2 Professional Development workshops
- 26 staff part of New Advisors Group



#### Purpose

- Support
- Encouragement
- Engagement
- Professional Development
- Validation

#### Communication

- Social Media
- E-mail
- Meetings







#### Instagram



- CSUSB\_Advisors
- Reminders
- Motivational Mondays
- Opportunity Drawings
- Visual documentation
- Promotion of group

#### E-mail



- Reminders
- Updates
- Motivational Mondays
- Academic advising articles
- Social media posts
- Birthday Celebrations

#### **Meetings**

- Themed Meetings
- Potlucks
- Engagement / Connect
- Updates / Reminders
- Article reviews / discussions
- Case studies / discussions
- Group Activities























#### **Professional Development Workshops**

- Career Center
  - Branding Your Professional Self
    - Networking / Working a NACADA Conference
    - Resume Building / Cover Letter





#### **Professional Development Workshops**

- "I liked the discussions about intentionality in going to conferences and purposeful networking."
- "I didn't know I should have a 30-second elevator pitch for conferences. And now I can't believe I didn't have one before."
- "The resume workshop was super beneficial to me since I learned tips about quantifying experiences and events when possible."

#### **Academic Advising Articles**

- The Professionalization of Academic Advising: Where Are We in 2010?
- Academic Advising as Learning 10 Organizing
   Principles
- It's What I Have Always Wanted to Do. Advising the Foreclosure Student
- Why Do I Have to Take This Course?
- Working with Undecided Students A Hands-on Strategy
- If Advising is Teaching, What do Advisors Teach?

## What's come out of the New Advisors Group

#### Instagram



- CSUSB\_Advisors
- Started July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- 220 posts
- 542 Total Followers
- 5K Likes Received
- 293 Comments

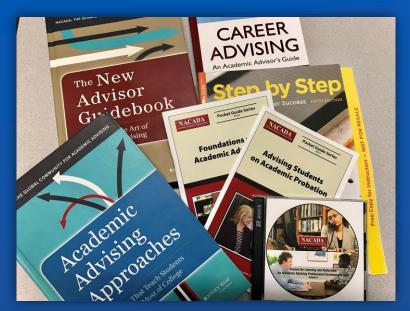
#### **New Advisor Campus Tour**

- Learn more about CSUSB
- Learn locations of campus resources
- Interact with other advisors



## Mini-Advising Library

- Academic Advising
- Career Advising
- Teaching
- Pocketbooks
- DVD's
- Journals
- Miscellaneous





#### **Motivational Mondays**







Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.

#### **Birthday Celebrations**







#### **Advisor Videos**

- 14 advisors participated
- Introductory advisor videos
  - Learn about advisors and their respective departments
  - Advisors show a "personal side"
  - Build a connection
  - Each advisor is spotlighted







"What I found beneficial about shooting the video is that we can now use it (in SAIL) as a way of allowing students to see me and hear me. This way, when they come in to see the advisor- it doesn't seem so awful- and they feel a connection to who I am."

#### **Survey Results**

- 93% overall satisfaction as "excellent" with New Advisors Group
- 93% feel encouraged in the New Advisors Group
- 80% feel that social media can increase engagement and encouragement for the new advisors group
- 100% strongly agree or agree that the Advising
   Library is an effective resource for new advisors

#### Cons

- Duplication of efforts
- Not an actual job responsibility
- Time / Commitment
- No administrative oversight

#### Pros

- No administrative oversight
- Better connections / Engagement
  - Sounding board
  - Successes / Struggles of advisors
- Support
- Case studies and academic advising article discussions

"I feel with advisors on campus having an opportunity to participate in the group, we all have a bigger support team."

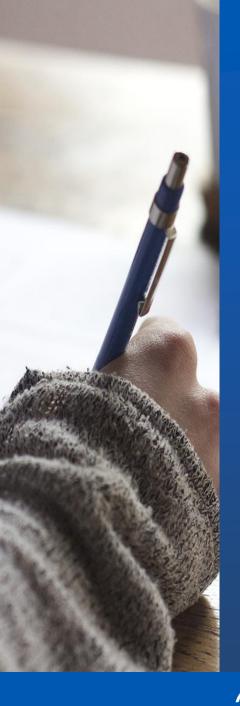
"Thanks for starting this group and creating the workshops and different strategies to help us professionally."

"It is a pleasure being part of this group. I feel very welcomed and encouraged by my colleagues."

#### **POSSIBLE CHANGES**

- Invite additional advisors to participate
- Change name of group
- Add as actual job responsibility





## Thank you!

Any questions?

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