AAN Meeting September 6th, 2018

What is the definition of a good academic advisor?

* Someone who sees the student one on one, they understand what a student goes through on a day to day basis
* Someone that actually know what we need to take so students do not have to add on extra semesters or a year
* For students that change a major, a good academic advisor will be able to get them on the best and fastest path to graduate ASAP
* Have students graduate on time
* Someone who points out the flexibility within a student’s schedule. Knowing which classes can accommodate multiple majors if the student were to switch
* Be aware of more than just the academic services like the clubs and organizations that will be of interest to them

As a freshman what were your initial thoughts and reservations about meeting with your academic advisor?

* Orientation can be overwhelming, you are in a sea of people and have to figure out what classes to take even though you do not know what to take
* We were lost as freshman, give us as much guidance as you can
* A better explanation of what the duties of an academic advisor would be helpful
* It can be confusing to go through multiple advisors, especially when one of your advisors refers you to another and then they refer you to a different one.
	+ Perhaps there can be announcements or a newsletter
* Make it super clear as to who can lift your hold and then send reminders
* Reassure us that it is okay if students do not know what they want to do, it is completely normal!

Do advisors promote for study abroad, internships, and Study USA?

* Yes!
* Biochem is always emphasizing research
* The School of Business has two trips offered during the year for study abroad
* Engineering is always pushing co-op opportunities

How do we keep in touch with our students?

* Flyers and being in student’s faces with information
* Through social media: Instagram, snapchat and Twitter.
	+ Follow students and hope for their follow back
	+ Mention it on the first day
	+ Provide incentives for following certain accounts
* Have a professor mention it is advising time during class
* Partner with student organizations for reminders
	+ Like a Greek Life representative mention it at dinner
* You have them in their office until you lift their hold, talk to them there
* Showing your face in more places than just your office

What was your most rewarding experience with an academic advisor?

* Having them help you graduate in four years
* Break down future semesters to see a four year plan
* One advisor called and emailed during her co-op to show her a schedule of classes for the next three years
* To stay on top of your schedule, know what you want to take and then your advisor can work with that
* Relax, we will take care of you
* My academic advisor is invested in me, she pushed me to keep taking those steps to be better. She is more than my academic advisor
* Talk about degree audits so the student can know their own progress
	+ Note by Holly Reynolds: liberal arts should use this with caution as it is not always accurate

What should we talk about as freshman versus seniors?

* As a senior maybe 10 mins is spent talking about schedules and academics, while 20 mins is spent talking about life after graduation
* As seniors ask us about what our future plans are, what we are doing post-graduation
* Make the schedule flexible, so if a student only needs 10 mins they can book that but if they need the whole 20 mins they can book that as well
* Freshman are just excited to be here but as we mature we take on more responsibility
* Help your seniors with their degree applications, it’s nice to have a second pair of eyes to review it

How to avoid pitfalls when switching schools?

* Understanding on the front end that most people will change their mind
* Give them flexible class options that work across a majority of majors

Do you read the UM Today?

* Headline has to be interesting to open
* Sometimes they skim it to see if there is anything new or interesting
* Sometimes there is random Easter eggs that is cool to know

Do you talk about schedules/classes/teachers outside of academic advisor meetings?

* We talk with our friends about what times to take classes together
* Rely on friends advice about teacher
* Some students only take classes based on the time of the class, no 8ams or Friday classes
* Word of mouth is super important
* Try to connect freshman with previous students who took the class. So they can get recommendations about what the class is actually like
* If they look at a teacher evaluation, it is only at the written portion not the multiple choice section

What was your worst experience?

* Still receiving emails from departments that you switched out of
* Overlooking curriculum
* Be knowledgeable, don’t assume you know the answer
* Make sure to build a relationship, make a connection.

What is a good recommendation for a general population social event?

* Associated Student Body (follow their social media for events)
* Student Activities Association
* Rebelthon (24 hour dance party)
* Feed the Hunger
* The Big Event
* CREW and various religious organizations
* Honors Society
* Psi Chi (via psychology department but open to all students)
* Activities within departments, gives students a chance to create study friends

Final Words of Wisdom

* Keep doing what you are doing
* Everyone that receives a degree from The University of Mississippi is because of you
* Have knowledge about the changing curriculum, stay up to date on policies
* Ask students about their hobbies and minors when helping the choose electives
* Give outside of class opportunities
* Build relationship, be the one to reach out to the student
* Truly invest in their success