# Academic Advising Working Group Faculty Council Update April 16, 2014

**Members: Elizabeth Fogle (HSS), Linda Hajec (BUS), Jonathan Hall (SOS),**

**Tracy Halmi (Chair, SOS), Jun Zhou (ENG) Mary Beth McCarthy (ex-officio)**

**Summary:** During the spring 2010 semester, the administration created the Academic and Career Planning Advisory Committee. The group surveyed students and faculty advisors during the fall 2011 semester. The group summarized the results in the Academic Advising Report on July 9, 2012. It was determined that although there are many models and recommendations that may improve academic advising at the Behrend Campus, a mechanism for implementation is required.

In order to improve advising campus wide, Faculty Council Chair Matt Swinarski, created the **Academic Advising Working Group.** This group is charged with the following.

* Prioritize the recommendations from the July 2012 Academic Advising Report
* Recommend specific actions that are required to determine implementation
* Suggest new or modified policies, procedures and/or practices required to implement each recommendations including which group will be responsible
* Present draft of suggestions to Faculty Organization for approval and implementation
* Schedule follow-up meetings with the administration to discuss timelines and implementation progress

**Update:** The working group has met twice (March 26 and April 14) since the initial charge meeting. We have spent the majority of the two meetings gathering information about the Penn State Behrend advising model’s strengths and weaknesses.

During the preliminary stages, we have concluded that there is a break in the process chain between NSO (new student orientation) and faculty advisers as well as between units. It is clear that one-on-one advising is essential yet faculty are not always trained nor have the time to properly advise students.

The working group plans to meet again on April 30 to clearly define our advising needs on campus. Once we define our needs, we plan to explore specific working models and make recommendations. The group plans to work over the summer and create an implementation plan by fall 2014.

Respectfully submitted, Tracy