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Support of the Roles of Faculty, Individual Schools, Departments and Programs to Determine the Best Means of Advising in the Specific Academic Unit

USM Faculty Senate

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Resolution in Support of the Roles of Faculty, Individual Schools, Departments and Programs to Determine the Best Means of Advising in the Specific Academic Unit

Whereas, on March 18, 2011, the Gulf Coast Faculty Council supported unanimously a resolution opposing “the implementation of a unilateral advising scheme for all academic units on the USM Gulf Coast campus, adopted without consultation of faculty or program units on the coast.”

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of The University of Southern Mississippi endorses fully the unanimous resolution of the Gulf Coast Faculty Council on appropriate role of faculty, individual schools, departments and programs in academic advisement and the mechanism for providing that advisement to our students.

The Gulf Coast Faculty Council

March 18, 2011

Be it resolved by a unanimous vote of the Gulf Coast Faculty Council that we wholeheartedly oppose the implementation of a unilateral advising scheme for all academic units on the USM Gulf Coast campus, adopted without consultation of faculty or program units on the coast. The Gulf Coast Faculty Council represents the faculty and academic interests of all five academic colleges and the library of the university.

The Gulf Coast Faculty Council opposes this student-advising scheme for multiple reasons, not limited to, but including:

- Faculty and individual departments were not consulted for any input about this type of advising by university management.
- Not Involving faculty in advising hurts professional development within a student’s academic discipline. This advising scheme also will negatively impact student retention.
- Faculty advisement encourages students to progress through course sequencing in a prescribed time frame and aids in the development of professional faculty/student relationships.
- This advising scheme will jeopardize a student’s admission process to professional academic programs such as Nursing, Social Work, and others. In addition, this will have a negative impact on accreditation in all professional education programs.
- Any advising scheme is best considered in light of the needs of the individual academic discipline and college, as there is much variance across the curricular needs of each program.

Based on the above listed concerns, and others, we, the Gulf Coast Faculty Council, propose that individual schools, departments, and programs, be allowed to utilize student academic advising procedures that make sense and are appropriate for accreditation and student retention in the specific academic unit. In the interest of shared university governance, we propose the immediate rescinding of this advisement scheme.

Signed this day,

The Faculty Members of the Gulf Coast Faculty Council.