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Letter from Dan V. Taylor, Graduate Student Senator re Creation of University Task Force on Academic Advisement

Academic Senate

Illinois State University

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December 23, 1974

Dr. Robert Sutherland  
Chairman, Academic Senate  
Illinois State University  
Normal, Illinois 61761

Dear Chairman Sutherland:

I am writing to request that the Executive Committee act on a proposal to create a University Task Force on Academic Advisement.

Specifically, I am requesting that the current Senate appoint a nine member committee to study the role, function and operations of academic advisement at ISU.* The committee's charge would be to examine the policies, procedures and organization of academic advisement and to make such recommendations as the committee deemed appropriate to the Senate in the areas noted.

I would hope that the committee would consider, among other things, the following:

1) What improvements can be made in advisement information dissemination?

2) Are there alternative organizational formats that would improve service delivery? (i.e., college-based, non-departmental, etc.)

3) Given current and proposed APT-FSC guidelines, what alternatives for faculty merit evaluation can be provided for advisement service?

*The recommended committee composition would include 4 students, 4 faculty and the Dean of Student Affairs. The Executive Committee would be asked to recommend a set of nine names plus two alternates to the Senate for ratification. Faculty representatives should include at least one person from the academic advisement staff. The committee, at its option, would be encouraged to invite resource persons to aid and advise the committee in its work. Every effort should be made to select students and faculty that are able and willing to serve for the time period indicated.
4) What should be the program and organizational relationship between academic advisement, placement, counseling and related service agencies?

5) What is academic advisement? (i.e., career counseling, scheduling, etc.)

6) What do students think of departmental and University advisement services? What are their recommendations for improvement?

7) What kind of staff/faculty qualifications are needed for an academic advisor? Should staff/faculty advisors be provided in-service training?

8) What services can and should be provided to part-time students?

9) Should undergraduate students serve as advisors? Under what conditions and for what information?

10) What role and function can or should academic advisement play in a student retention program?

The committee would be expected to provide a final report to the Senate on or before December 1, 1975. The committee would be responsible for providing the Senate with a set of priority recommendations, accompanied by cost figures wherever possible.

Institutional surveys and long-standing student concerns related to academic advisement service delivery justify this proposal for a comprehensive study.

I would urge that the Executive Committee favorably recommend Senate action on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dan V. Taylor
Graduate Student Senator

DVT:pl