PURPOSE:
Recognizing the critical role academic advising serves in enabling student success and retention, the Work Group for Undergraduate Advising (WGUA) will study and document the current environment of undergraduate advising, identify enhancement and improvement opportunities, and identify national best practices that are appropriate for adoption at UWM. In this broader context, the WGUA will also specifically evaluate the “Academic Advising” recommendations offered by the attendees of the John Gardner Institute (proposed in January 2015), and approved by the Chancellor and CEMAT (February 2015) to determine if they merit implementation as a means to provide the best advising environment. Those recommendations include:

1. Identify standards of practice, core competencies and guiding principles for all advisors at UWM along with training and support needed to ensure application and consistency across advising units.
2. Explore the creation of a centralized academic advising service for all undecided students and develop an implementation plan(s) that will incorporate methods for connecting students to major advisors at the point of major declaration.
3. Explore the idea of a coordinator role for undergraduate academic advising.
4. Consider procedures that will enable effective advising partnerships between faculty and professional advisors for juniors and seniors.

This work will require the WGUA to develop implementation plan(s) that consider feasibility in staff resources, time and funding.

MEMBERS AND STRUCTURE:

1. Recognizing that student success is multifaceted, involving staff across division and school/college boundaries, the Work Group be composed of
   - Gesele Durham, Academic Affairs Co-chair
   - Kay Eilers, Student Success Center Co-chair
   - Phyllis King, Academic Affairs Co-chair
   - Robert Smith, GIE
   - Robin Jens, Nursing
   - Louis Molina, Arts
   - Rodney Swain, L&S
   - Jennifer Deroche, L&S
   - Warren Scherer, Inclusive Excellence Center
   - Brian Hinshaw, OEM
   - Angie Sadowsky, SOIS (Enhancing Advising Committee)
   - Scott Emmons, Arts
   - Janice Miller/Hope Longwell-Grice

The work group will involve and seek feedback from the following campus contacts: school/college and multi-cultural office representatives, including at a minimum, students, faculty who are involved in undergraduate advising; undergraduate advisors, their
supervisors, and Associate Deans who oversee advising units; Student Success Center staff; and others as determined by the co-chairs.

2. The co-chairs will make periodic progress reports to CEMAT with a “final” report in December 2015.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Document the current environment at UWM and identify best practices, and standards of practice for academic advising appropriate for adoption at UWM. The committee report will also provide a foundational framework of consistent practices that may be enhanced by schools, colleges and multicultural centers with methods that support their specific needs and cultures. The report will also identify training and support needed to ensure adoption that will provide a consistent student experience, regardless of advising unit.

2. If appropriate, develop a project management plan(s), accounting for infrastructure needs given different funding and resource (space and staff) scenarios, with timelines and assigned role(s) that will provide centralized administration of academic advising for all undecided students.

3. If appropriate, propose a model(s) for implementing a coordinator role for undergraduate academic advising, accounting for infrastructure needs given different funding and resource (space and staff) scenarios, including reporting structure, how the coordinator will lead the campus advising network, and other components necessary for success.

4. Prepare documents for consideration by campus stakeholders that details best practices for “handing off” advising of juniors and seniors from advising staff to faculty, and provides communication plan for sharing with faculty any finalized document.

Campus Stakeholder Groups:

Students
Academic Services & Advising Leadership Council (ASALC) – Assistant Deans
Enhancing Advising Council (EAC)
Faculty Advisors
Multicultural Center Advisors
Academic Opportunity Center (AOC) Advisors
Letters & Science (L&S) First Year Advisors
Associate Deans
Academic Leadership Council (ALC)
Advisors & Counselors Network (ACN)
Career Development Center (CDC)
Honors Advisors
CIE Advisors
Athletics Advisors
Student support offices across campus