Office of Central Advising at UWM

Overview

**Mission:** The Office of Central Advising (OCA) is a comprehensive, campus-wide unit that provides holistic, compassionate, intensive advising and opportunities for multicultural enrichment to students from diverse backgrounds who have not yet declared a major.

**Vision:** OCA will promote student academic success and retention by fostering academic advising best practices, collaborating with schools, colleges, and academic support services, and providing innovative multicultural outreach and programming.

**Description:** Housed in Mitchell Hall, OCA’s organizational structure includes a Director (Bill Hebert, Jr.), and Assistant Director (John Dorosz). As Director, Hebert, Jr. reports to the Provost and oversees the OCA, including campus-wide OCA advisors, school and college-based liaisons, and identity-specific advisors who remain housed in Bolton Hall’s Multicultural Centers. OCA will coordinate advising on campus and centralize the advising of undecided students. Student Support Services (SSS) and the Academic Opportunity Center (AOC) have been folded into OCA, and those advisors will continue to work with the same student populations that they have been working with. New advisors will be hired to take on additional caseloads of undecided students, and others as needed.

**Multicultural Centers in Bolton Hall:** African American Academic Student Services, American Indian Student Services, the Roberto Hernandez Center, and Southeast Asian American Student Services will all maintain their identities, offices, and safe spaces. Advisors in those offices will continue to advise students that identify with those offices. The Multicultural Centers will report to the OCA, with the exception of the Roberto Hernandez Center, which continues its reporting line directly to the Provost.

**Student Experience:** The OCA is phasing in changes to advising over the next two academic years to ensure that summer New Student Orientations work with as little disruption as possible. The goal of OCA is to support students as they select their major. Once students declare a major, they will be handed off to primary advisors in their major schools and colleges. Students who have been advised by an OCA advisor in a Multicultural Center will continue to have that OCA advisor to provide holistic support, in addition to their primary advisor. This process will be phased in. Beginning in the 2017-18 academic year, declared and intended juniors (56-87 credits) will be given primary advisors in their major schools and colleges, and OCA advisors will remain as holistic advisors. Seniors will stay with their current advisors. During the 2018-19 academic year, intended and declared juniors and seniors (56+ credits) will be given primary advisors in their major schools and colleges, and OCA advisors will remain as holistic advisors.

During the 2017-19 academic years, OCA will coordinate town halls to answer questions that students might have, and will also be working with campus administration on new initiatives to improve student success and retention.