

IMPROVING THE UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, & STAFF



EXPERIENCE
Purdue Agriculture

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Student Population

- 29,500 Undergraduate Students
- 2,671 College of Agriculture Undergraduates
 - Males—1,122 (42%)
 - Females—1,549 (58%)

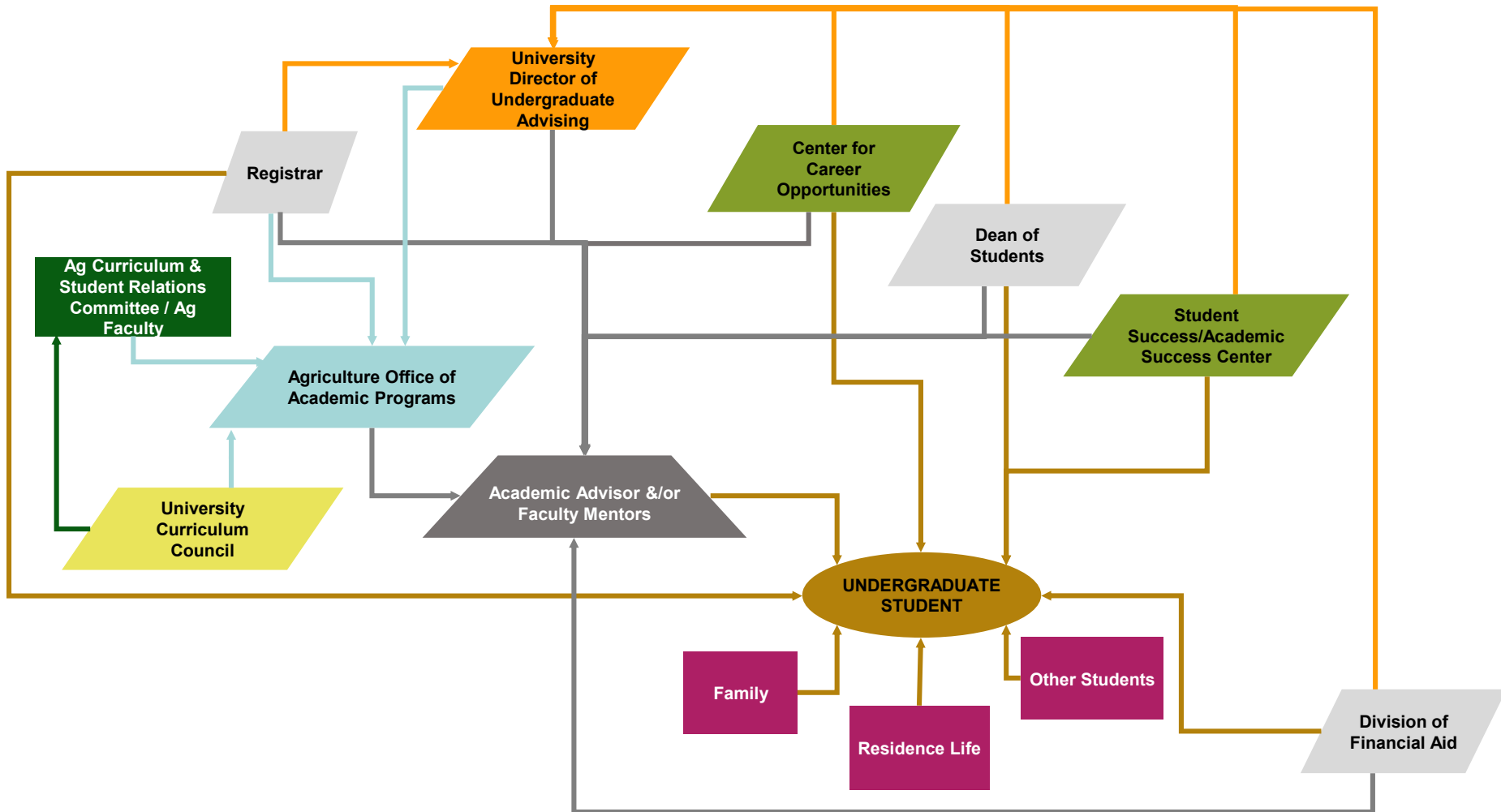
College of Ag Advising Model:

- Faculty and Professional Staff
 - 11 academic departments
 - 9 utilize professional advisors
 - 3 interdepartmental programs
 - All 3 utilize professional advisors

“The college with the highest satisfaction in all categories of advising (college level, departmental staff, and faculty) is the College of Agriculture” OIRAE Briefing

There is always room for improvement...

MAKING ADVISING CONNECTIONS



Discussion topics:

- It would likely flop and go terribly if we asked faculty to...
- We would short change the student experience if we had staff...

Meeting 1: Faculty Advisors

- 12 faculty in attendance
- 11 academic programs represented

Meeting 2: Professional Advisors

- 16 Professional Staff Advisors
- All academic programs represented

Works best when faculty...

- Help student increase competence within field
- Help student develop more advanced research, writing, and study skills
- Increase students' general education related knowledge and begin to develop field specific knowledge
- Help refine student learning skills for post-graduate profession/education
- Explore how student interests and skills apply to the world of work or post-graduate education

"The Gray Area"

- Explore opportunities that will help student clarify interests
- Help refine and focus educational goals, assist with career exploration & choice (build upon strengths & aspirations)
- Continue to encourage student to provide leadership
- Encourage student to develop support networks and life-long learning & career plans
- Help student understand goals of liberal education

Works best when Professional Advising Staff...

- Increase familiarity with student information system, course planning, and schedule adjustment
- Suggest a degree audit, be sure student is on track to graduate
- Explain how a resumé is conducted
- Teach interviewing skills
- Help to refine study skills and develop effective habits

Meeting 3: Combination of Faculty and Professional Advisors

- 26 faculty and staff combined, all departments represented
- reviewed tasks lists
- discussed future action steps

Meetings 4&5: Students Input

- Summary of reports from meetings 1-3
- Asked questions regarding their advising experiences (notes collected)



“It’s the people, not the system”

Do you have the knowledge to help me? Relationships matter.

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- Staff advisors and faculty mentors have complementary roles; the understanding and appreciation of these different roles by the advisors, faculty mentors, and especially students, could be improved
- Timely communication between faculty and advisors regarding curricular issues is critical
- Advisor talking points for student advising sessions would be helpful
- An advising manual focused on information beneficial to those who are new the advising community would be helpful
- No one model will fit every department

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