



# Student to Student: UA Advising

Welcome to a presentation  
of our class project!

Students in AED (FS) 410/510

# Leadership Concepts and Contexts

- **Course Assumptions:**
  - **We are all called to lead.**
  - **Leading and lifelong learning are intertwined.**
  - **Leadership education is most effective when it is contextually based.**
  - **Leading is a shared responsibility for creating a better world in which to live and work which is manifested in our passion to engage others in bringing about purposeful change.**



# The Class Project

- We learn leadership by being leaders, not by simply studying about leaders.
- We wanted to bring about positive change within our campus community.
- Our mission is to get students engaged in a dialogue intended to improve the effectiveness of UA advising.

# Student Survey Findings (N=502)

- About the advising experience...
  - In general, the advising experience becomes less positive as students move from freshman year to senior standing.
  - The more frequently students meet with advisors, the more positive the advising experience overall.

## Student Survey Findings continued

- Let's look at extremes:
  - 12.5% reported a very poor experience compared to only 7% who rated their advising as excellent.
  - 10% reported very poor access to advising while 10% said they had ample access.
  - 7.5% cited inaccurate information as a problem and only 18% scored their advisor's accuracy as excellent.

# Student Survey Findings continued

- Qualities...
  - Most students (nearly 70%) listed several important qualities.
  - The most important qualities are (in order):
    - knowledgeable
    - accessible/available
    - caring/understanding
  - Others mentioned include:
    - helpful, accurate, personable, efficient, thorough, honest, patient, experienced, and dedicated

## Student Survey Findings continued

- Comments and questions...
  - Nearly half the students included a comment or question.
  - 46 positive comments were made while 108 students included a negative comment.
  - 65 students offered recommendations for improving advising.

# Student Survey Findings continued

- Comments...continued
  - Several individuals were named as exemplary advisors.
  - A number of the comments expressed a high degree of frustration.
  - Recommendations included:
    - Increase the number of advisors available.
    - Better training for advisors for consistent info
    - More communication between colleges/majors



# DEMOGRAPHICS N=502

- **Class Standing:**
  - Freshman 15%, Sophomore 25%, Junior 29%, Senior 27%.
- **Full time/Part time:**
  - Full time 92%, Part time 4%
- **Gender**
  - Female 39%, Male 23%, na 38%
- **Age**
  - 15% outside typical 18-22 year old range
  - 18-13%, 19-20%, 20-21%, 21-19%, 22-12%
- **Number of Advising Appointments/Semester**
  - 66% see advisor once or twice per semester

# Advisor Survey Findings

- Staff respondents reported between 40 and 1350 students assigned to them with an average of 617 student advisees.
- Faculty respondents reported between 7 and 833 students assigned to them with an average of 44 student advisees.
- Staff see about 45% of their advisees each semester while faculty see 57%.

## Advisor Survey Findings continued

- Comments from advisors included:
  - must have more faculty advisors available
  - more access to info would be helpful
  - an advising web page would be useful
  - compensation should be increased for advising
  - training and preparation for advisors has to be improved

# Advisor Survey Findings continued

- Demographics:
  - response rate good for email survey
  - 11 staff members responded from 6 different colleges
  - 17 faculty representing 8 different colleges responded
- Points of agreement with students:
  - qualities of effective advisors, need for more training, need for more advisors



## Student to Student

Our class project was intended to provide an opportunity to engage and enhance campus community.

We would like to offer the community a “student to student” web site which we hope will be of value to students, faculty, and staff who are committed to a quality student experience at the University of Arizona.