

UAC BULLETIN



Texas A&M University

Fall 2004

Volume 1, Issue 1



“Tis the Season” Welcome to the Bulletin!

The Communications Committee would like to extend a warm welcome and are proud to bring you the Second Volume of the *UAC Bulletin*, a newsletter intended to inform you about the events and accomplishments that involve university advisors and counselors throughout the community at Texas A&M University.

-Eunice Overton, VP Communications

A Note from our President...

Howdy,

This year seems to be flying by and UAC is certainly on the move, literally speaking. One can't help but notice all the movement of advising offices in the past year. Hats off to all those who have braved packing and unpacking boxes. The transitions, although stressful to us, are being rather well weathered by students. This came into perspective for me after a recent conversation with a first year freshman. I tried to make a big deal out of them seeing their advisor over in a new location. Looking perplexed, they had no idea that this particular office had been housed anywhere other than its new location. Change is sometimes worse for us than it is for them, so again I applaud all those who continue to arrive at work with a smile and helping heart, even when the path to work involves new parking spaces and office keys.

UAC as an organization continues to be on the move as well. I believe we orchestrated the best Fall Advisor Briefing Days in UAC's history. The feedback we received from the participants leads us to believe that we're on the right track with uplifting and informative continuing education experiences for TAMU advisors. Not to be outdone, the plans and speakers I have seen for the Spring Symposium set that event for stellar new heights as well. I'm not sure we can grasp all the hard work that goes into planning these events, even though we should understand that it does happen by advisors who have just as great a student case load as we have. It's not said enough, so I again thank all those who give so generously of their time and effort to UAC. We accomplish all that we do because of you!

Lastly, I'd like to let you know that UAC remains resolved to stay on the move. We continue to take membership and institutional feedback towards positive organizational change very seriously. Currently, committees are working feverishly to address issues such as the outdated UAC by-laws and the need to formally evaluate ourselves as an organization. Other improvements such as a long needed new UAC website and new advisor training models are on the drawing board as well. All these changes were suggested by "you." With so much going on and in the planning stages, my challenge to you would be to get involved. The "old-timers" in UAC would tell you that all the friendship, support, networking and professional growth experiences that UAC has to offer are just a "committee" away.

Always feel free to contact me with any concerns you might have about UAC.

Best wishes and see you at the Holiday Luncheon,

Lyle Slack, 2004-2004 UAC President

Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
A Note from our	1
UAC Campus	1
Events	
UAC Board	2
Advisor Briefing	2
Grade Exclusion	3
UAC Programs,	3
Regional, State	
and National	
Events	
Did you know	4

UAC

Campus Events:

December 16
UAC Holiday Party
Rock Fish
11:00 am — 1:00 pm
(rsvp by December 10th!)

February 15
UAC Symposium

May 5
UAC Awards Breakfast
MSC
8:30 am — 10:00 am

UAC Executive Board 2004-2005

OFFICERS

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
Past President	Nancy Street	n-street@tamu.edu
President	Lyle Slack	lyle.slack@tamu.edu
President Elect	Jennifer Funkhouser Baker	j-funkhouser@tamu.edu
VP Programs	Summer Felton	sfelton@aged.tamu.edu
VP Communications	Eunice Overton	eoverton@cvm.tamu.edu
Secretary	Linda Windle	lwindle@tamu.edu
Treasurer	Mary Beth Isenhardt	mbisenhardt@tamu.edu

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>
College of Agriculture & Life Sciences	Sharon Duray	Academic Affairs	Dale Pracht
College of Architecture	Mike White	Academic Affairs	Joel McGee
Mays School of Business	Linda Windle	Student Affairs	Cynthia Hernandez
College of Education & Human Development	Breanna Grimes	Student Affairs	Kristie Orr
College of Engineering	Cathy Sperry	Student Government	Unknown
General Academic Programs	Sallye Henderson	Student Financial Services	Kathy Symank
College of Geosciences	Cathy Littleton	Associate Provost's Office	Kristin Harper
College of Liberal Arts	Terri Burger	Athletics	Kathy James
College of Science	Tammy Tiner	Blinn College	Alicia Zemanek
Biomedical Sciences	Eunice Overton		

Advisor Briefing Day “Thriving in the Midst of Change”

By Eunice Overton, Biomedical Science

The Third Annual Academic Advisor Briefing day was held on September 14th and 15th in the Memorial Student Center on the Texas A&M Campus. Advisor Briefing day opened with introductions from the UAC President Lyle Slack and was followed with welcome remarks from Dr. Mark Weichold, Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Associate Provost of Academic Services. Mike Balog and Ann Gundy wrapped day two of the program with closing remarks and a host of door prizes.

Advisors had the opportunity to network and gather significant information applicable to working with students. Topics varied from discussions on current issues such as writing intensive courses, grade exclusion, the aggie honor system, etc., & wrapped up with student vignettes about pre-screening for learning disabilities, and graduate student opportunities.

An extended appreciation and heartfelt thanks to all who participated in the Third Annual Academic Advisor Briefing and a special thanks to all who provided topics of professional development for are Texas A&M community of advisors.

If you were not able to attend and/or want more information please contact Terri Burger at: tburger@tamu.edu

We're on the Web!
<http://uac.tamu.edu>

Grade Exclusion December 2004

◆ A fully admitted, currently enrolled Texas A&M undergraduate student, who entered Texas A&M as “first time in college*” as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may elect to exclude from his/her undergraduate degree and cumulative GPR calculation grades of D, F, or U.

◆ This exclusion shall be permitted for up to a maximum of three courses taken for credit at Texas A&M University.

◆ This option may be exercised only for those courses taken at Texas A&M during the twelve month period beginning with the student’s initial enrollment at Texas A&M.

◆ All courses chosen for first year grade exclusion shall remain on the official transcript and be designated on the transcript as excluded.

◆ While the exclusion option may only be exercised for courses taken during the initial twelve month period, the decision to exclude a course grade from that period may be exercised at any time prior to applying for the baccalaureate degree.

◆ Grades for courses in which the student was found to have committed academic dishonesty will not be excluded from the GPR calculation, regardless whether or not the student completed remediation.

◆ A course for which the grade has been

excluded will not be used to satisfy degree requirements unless it is repeated by the student for an acceptable grade.

◆ Once a grade in a course has been excluded from the GPR calculation, a student will not later be permitted to have the exclusion removed or otherwise changed.

◆ If a student chooses to exercise the first year grade exclusion, that option must be exercised before the official deadline, as indicated in the university calendar, for application for the baccalaureate degree in the student’s final semester.

◆ First year grade exclusion cannot be invoked after a baccalaureate degree has been conferred upon the student.

◆ A student choosing to exercise the first year grade exclusion option may only do so after conferring with the undergraduate dean (or designee) of his/her college.

◆ Courses for which grades have been excluded will be counted as attempted hours when determining eligibility for tuition rebates, calculating excess credit hours, and determining third-time repeats.

◆ First year grade exclusion will affect student classification if excluding a course lowers total completed hours below 95, 60, or 30 hours.

◆ Courses for which grades have been

excluded will not be taken into account when determining eligibility for a change of major, scholarships, or other achievement based awards.

◆ Courses excluded under this policy are not excluded when determining whether a student is meeting satisfactory academic progress requirements (hours completed) for federal and state financial aid programs.

◆ Students should be made aware that while excluded courses will not be factored into Texas A&M University GPR, employers, professional schools, and graduate schools may recalculate the GPR to include such grades.

◆ University rules regarding Q-drops remain unaffected, but students should consult with their college’s undergraduate dean or his/her designee.

* **First Time in College:** An undergraduate, degree seeking, student who applied and enrolled in college for the first time regardless of whether the student has acquired college level credit through testing, advanced placement or summer enrollment. This field is used only the first semester of a student's enrollment at TAMU. From: Texas A&M University Office of Institutional Studies and Planning, Statistical Fact book

(<http://www.tamu.edu/opir>)

“Where there is unity, there is strength”

Dates for Monthly UAC Programs

Upcoming Regional, State and National Events

February 15, 2005

Texas A&M University Advisors and Counselors 16th Annual Symposium

March 3-4, 2005

Texas Academic Advising Network (TEXAAN) 12th Annual Conference College Station Hilton—Hosted by Texas A&M Praireview

March 3-5, 2005

NACADA Southwest Regional Conference (Region 7) Oklahoma City Oklahoma

December 10

UAC Holiday Luncheon

February 15

UAC Symposium

March 8

UAC Program
“Strengths Quest”

April 12

UAC Program on “Assessment of Student and Advising Outcomes”

May 5

Awards Breakfast 8:30—10:00 a.m. MSC



Texas A&M University

If you have any suggestions or would like to submit an article for the next issue, please e-mail Eunice Overton at: eoverton@cvm.tamu.edu

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ Texas A&M awarded more than 284,000 academic degrees, including approximately 61,000 graduate and professional degrees
- ◆ Texas A&M has consistently ranked in the forefront over the past decade among public universities in Texas in retention rates - keeping its students enrolled and on course for graduation; first for overall student body and for minorities - both African-American and Hispanic students

*These and more interesting facts can be found at:
<http://www.tamu.edu/univrel/sheets/>*