MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Directors and Chairs - Norman Campus

FROM: Kathleen Shea Smith, Ph.D.
    Associate Provost for Academic Advising

DATE: August 31, 2020

SUBJECT: Quality Academic Advising

As we begin the 2020-2021 academic year, I encourage you and your staff to review and adopt the “Core Values of Academic Advising” statement articulated by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). According to NACADA, this statement of Core Values offers a structure from which to understand academic advising and underscores the complex responsibilities encompassing an advisor’s commitment to all higher education stakeholders. The Provost’s Advisory Committee on Academic Advising (PACAA) subscribes to this high standard and calls upon all members of the advising community to embody these values. Below is this list of Core Values and a brief synopsis of their interpretation.

Caring
Academic advisors respond to and are accessible to others in ways that challenge, support, nurture, and teach. Advisors build relationships through empathetic listening and compassion for students, colleagues, and others.

Commitment
Academic advisors value and are dedicated to excellence in all dimensions of student success. Advisors are committed to students, colleagues, institutions, and the profession through assessment, scholarly inquiry, lifelong learning, and professional development.

Empowerment
Academic advisors motivate, encourage, and support students and the greater educational community to recognize their potential, meet challenges, and respect individuality.

Inclusivity
Academic advisors respect, engage, and value a supportive culture for diverse populations. Advisors strive to create and support environments that consider the needs and perspectives of students, institutions, and colleagues through openness, acceptance, and equity.

Integrity
Academic advisors act intentionally in accordance with ethical and professional behavior developed through reflective practice. Advisors value honesty, transparency, and accountability to the student, institution, and the advising profession.

Professionalism
Academic advisors act in accordance with the values of the profession of advising for the greater good of students, colleagues, institutions, and higher education in general.

Respect
Academic advisors honor the inherent value of all students. Advisors build positive relationships by understanding and appreciating students’ views and cultures, maintaining a student-centered approach and mindset, and treating students with sensitivity and fairness.
I strongly urge you to consider how academic advising at the University of Oklahoma can uphold these principles. Should you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Shea Smith or Jessie Youngblood, President of PACAA.

KSS/md

cc:
Jessie Youngblood, PACAA President