MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Directors and Chairs - Norman Campus

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

DATE: January 25, 2016

SUBJECT: Quality Academic Advising

As we begin 2016, 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.

Core Value 1: Advisors are responsible to the individuals they advise.

As advisors enhance student learning and development, advisees have the opportunity to become participants in and contributors to their own education. In one of the most important potential outcomes of this process, academic advising fosters individual potential.

Core Value 2: Advisors are responsible for involving others, when appropriate, in the advising process.

Academic advisors understand that strong institutional partnerships are necessary for supporting students and seek to establish strong linkages within the campus community.

Core Value 3: Advisors are responsible to their institutions.

Advisors increase their collective professional strength by constructively and respectfully abiding by the policies and procedures of the institution, while advocating for the strengthening of programs and services that enhance student learning.

Core Value 4: Advisors are responsible to higher education in general.

Relevant theoretical perspectives within the advising field shape advisors’ work with students. Advisors help their students process the learning that occurs in day-to-day application through exploration, trial and error, challenge, and decision-making.

Core Value 5: Advisors are responsible to their educational community.

Academic advisors understand the mission of the university and serve as ambassadors to the local, state, national and international entities associated with the institution.

Core Value 6: Advisors are responsible for their professional practices and for themselves personally.

Advisors engage in professional development activities that advance expertise and develop areas of special interest. This includes deepening their understanding of effective advising practices, the needs of diverse student populations, and a commitment to advising scholarship and research.
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 Jana Jacobs, Chair of PACAA.

KSS/mb

cc: Jana Jacobs, PACAA Chair