

## Solving student problems

### Student services

When you've got some kind of problem—academic, financial, employment, anything—you know that there are many places to go for help.

But chances are, especially if you're a new student, you don't even know where to start looking.

The Office of Student Services, 207 Emerald Hall, 686-3211, is operating just for that purpose.

Its function is to advise and counsel students about anything other than what their major will be.

Shirley Wilson, associate dean of students, who works in the office, has said, "We don't do all the stuff around here in this office, but if we don't do it, we'll let students know where to go."

She has said that a student with any problem should come to the

office "and explain their situation." Students should not ask just one question and leave the office, because usually the problem isn't solved by one answer, she said.

"If we have an idea of what the student's full situation is, we can help him out much more than if he asks merely one question. We're sort of a clearinghouse for information."

The main bulk of work the office does is (1) working with students who have academic credit problems, (2) explaining the University's grading system to students, and (3) arranging summer and fall orientation sessions for new students.

### Academic advising

Students can get help in deciding their majors by con-

tacting the Office of Academic Advising, 140 Hendricks, 686-3045.

Beverly Fagot, director of the office, has said the main function of the office is to help students decide their majors. "It's very rare for a student to come into the University and pick a major and keep it through all four years. So we help and advise people on their majors."

Fagot said the office is usually jammed with students during registration periods. "But we can't really talk with anyone during registration for a long period of time," she said, because of the usual crowding.

The office's staff has more time to help students later on in the term, she has said.

### Counseling Center

The University's Counseling Center, located in 150 Susan

Campbell, is prepared to offer unique and traditional services to students.

Individual counseling is the basic program at the center. David Brinks, center director, has said most people who seek individual counseling "feel a lot better just knowing there is some place to go and think out loud with someone. They need to talk to someone, and they can do that here."

Various unique services offered are career development counseling, human relations, encounter and therapy groups, a reading and study skills laboratory and drug counseling.

Career development counseling involves helping students who have "let their circumstances point their direction." Brinks has said.

## Providing students career placement

All students interested in detailed career planning, learning skills or career counseling can now receive aid from one office.

Titled Career Planning and Placement Service, the new office is actually a merger of two formerly distinct offices, the University Placement Service and the Counseling Center.

According to David Brinks, director of the new office, Career Planning and Placement is an attempt to synthesize a variety of University resources.

Three sections of the office work together to provide each other with information and skills. "Now we can tap specialists of reading resources, of the career planning staff, and the career

counseling psychologist to consult and collaborate," says Brinks.

Brinks feels that perhaps a more accurate name for the office would be Career Development. "The reconstructed approach we've taken concentrates on the whole development of one's life," he says.

Besides offering vocational aptitude and interest testing, occupational information and exploration and experience in areas of interest, Career Planning and Placement tries to get the student to take an inward look at himself. "We try to raise as many questions as we can," says Brinks. Personal exploration includes studying one's values,

preferences for rural or city lifestyles, mobility and consideration for a spouse or dependents.

The office also tries to provide experience that can be used in the future, Brinks says. "Resume preparation is critical," he emphasizes. "A person's papers precede the person in almost every instance. They speak for him before he gets a chance to speak for himself."

Brinks urges a study of the job market before making a career decision. "When people first come to a college, they often have a set idea of what they want to do," he says. "By the time they get out, they find the job market has changed considerably."

"We encourage rational life planning—exerting some influence over one's life—rather than just accepting circumstances."

Brinks hopes to eventually see a self-operated counseling system where a student "can tap resources without ever talking to a person." Such a system would make use of printed materials, resource lists and a computer terminal for exploring occupational information. "At any point one can step off the self-system," he adds.

Career Planning and Placement Service is located in Susan Campbell Hall. It is open 8 a.m. until noon and 1-5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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