

Peer advisers can help students plan for graduation

Some students feel more comfortable with peer advisers than professors

By Nicole Kristal
Higher Education Reporter

Just when students thought they had enough on their minds, the winter term class schedule was distributed earlier this week. But overwhelmed students do not have to figure out the logistics of their schedule alone.

The Peer Advising Program can help with many aspects of academic planning, in addition to providing students with information about graduation requirements.

"We're kind of a median between the student body and the faculty," said Kelly Chin, a psy-

chology peer adviser. "We provide opportunities for internships, too."

Chin said many students find visiting peer advisers to be a great option.

"If they don't feel comfortable going to a professor, they can come and talk to us," Chin said. "Sometimes students feel intimidated [talking to professors]."

According to peer advising coordinator Keith McDade, peer advisers are trained to make students feel as comfortable as possible.

"There's a certain level of sensitivity we try to get across to our peer advisers," he said.

Apparently, that sensitivity has paid off.

Melissa Canterbury, a sophomore in the pre-journalism pro-

gram, visited the journalism peer advising office for the first time on Thursday not knowing which classes to take for winter term. She found the service helpful.

"We planned the next couple of terms and when I could apply for the journalism school," Canterbury said. "[The peer adviser] was friendly."

Canterbury visited the office as opposed to a faculty adviser because she was not aware that faculty advisers were available.

The program, which has existed on campus since 1977, was developed with the intent of complementing faculty academic advising. More than 150 peer advisers are available to students in 18 departments, and the program is still growing, according to McDade.

"A lot of departments are realizing the benefits it's providing," he said. "Some places are experiencing better faculty-student relations, even though it's taking the burden off of some of the faculty advisers."

McDade said although there "aren't enough faculty members to go around," students should be aware that peer advisers aren't going to be able to answer everything that faculty advisers can.

Chin said there are many benefits to being a peer adviser.

"You get to know a lot more about your topic," he said. "You get to know the different fields and meet a bunch of different people."

Chin said sometimes working as a peer adviser in the psychology department can be confusing

to students seeking help.

"I don't know if it's because we're located in the psychology department or what, but sometimes people come in here and tell us their problems," he said.

One time a student came in and began to comment on her arachnophobia when an experiment involving a large number of spiders was taking place upstairs, Chin said.

He said helping people and being in an environment where the majority of your fellow employees "really want to excel" in school are some of the additional perks of peer advising.

Peer advisers do not get paid, but they receive three credits per term for holding office hours and fulfilling other job obligations.

Board members to vote on construction of donor wall at EMU

Families who donated more than \$50,000 to the University would be listed on the wall

By Michael Hines
Student Activities Reporter

Just a wall? It's not that simple.

The EMU board will vote Nov. 19 on whether to allow construction of a wall recognizing donors to the University, but many members do not know which way the vote will go.

The Oregon Foundation and University Public Affairs and Development Office want the board to agree to the donor wall.

Family — not business — donors of \$50,000 or more would

receive recognition on the wall. For example, Phil Knight and the Knight family would have a place on the wall, but Nike would not. A site for the donor wall has not yet been designated.

Kim Guevara, chair of the 15-person EMU board, said she cannot predict the outcome of the vote.

"To be perfectly honest, at this point I have no idea [if it will pass]," she said.

Although she is leaving her options open, Guevara said she will probably vote for the donor wall. She said students seem apathetic about it.

"I've kind of come to the conclusion that donors are contributing to the University, and they deserve to be recognized," she

said.

Dan Rodriguez, who is a board member and director of the University Alumni Association, said he agrees with Guevara.

"It's an opportunity to see the alumni who have helped the institution, which in turn helps the students," he said.

Board member Jenna Wasson said she has not received much response from students about the idea, and the feedback she has received has been mixed. Wasson said donors' ethics are a factor in many students' beliefs.

"I'm really torn," she said. "I'm not even sure if having this wall would help donations."

Rodriguez, who was speaking for himself and not for the Alumni Association, said the intent of

the donor wall is not to increase donations.

"I have never met a donor that ever gave for the sake of recognition," he said.

Wasson said more than 70 percent of donors are University alumni, and the majority of the rest are friends or family of graduates.

Board member Sadie Rogers is against construction of the wall.

"I hope that we don't have a donor wall," she said. "This is a student-owned, student-run building, and we don't need an outside donor wall coming in."

Rogers, who is also part of the ASUO Executive Office, said she has received negative feedback from students about the project.

"The consensus around the

EMU is they don't want it here," Rogers said.

Students may not be enthusiastic, Rodriguez said, but the wall will help them recognize the value of their predecessors.

"I don't think anybody expects students to study every individual name on the wall," he said, "but they're looking at alumni and friends of the University who care about them."

The board will vote Nov. 19 at 4 p.m. in the EMU Board Room. It will set aside some time at the beginning of the meeting for students to voice their opinions. The donor wall needs a majority vote to pass.

The board welcomes e-mail feedback at emubd@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Pardon our construction, but the EMU is still here to serve you!



Skylight Dining, EMU Third Floor, East Wing

Featuring a Full Espresso Menu, Oregon Chai, French Vanilla and Irish Creme General Foods International Coffees, Baker's Hot Cocoa, Tazo Tea, and Burlaps Gourmet Coffee in Organic, Dark French Roast, and Italian Decaf.



Concourse Coffee East and West, EMU Main Level

Very Convenient! Featuring Burlaps Gourmet Coffees, and Tazo Teas

AAA Hearth Cafe, Lawrence Hall, Second Floor

Featuring a Full Espresso Menu, Oregon Chai, Tazo Tea, and Burlaps Gourmet Coffees



The Daily Grind, Knight Library, Lower Level

Featuring a Full Espresso Menu, Oregon Chai, Tazo Tea, and Burlaps Gourmet Coffees

Atrium Cafe, Willamette Hall Lobby

Featuring Burlaps Gourmet Coffees, and Tazo Teas



In addition to a wide variety of tasty scones, giant cookies, donuts, and pastries, all EMU Food Service locations feature Muffin Mill Muffins, Humble Bagels, and Breakstone plain and flavored cream cheeses.