

UCA School Counseling Advisory Board

10/29/21 11 am

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Millie Engler, Donna Wilchie, Angie Nix, Odunola Oyeniyi, Valerie Couture

Board Members Absent: Chance George, Sonya Marsh

I. School Counseling Faculty program updates

- a. DESE Program Approval- * Received May 2021
- b. Adjunct Faculty-Two new adjuncts began this Fall.
- c. Recruitment Grant- Social media focus will begin soon. Most of our new students hear about us word of mouth. We are 100% online so we can serve students outside of Arkansas
- d. Undergraduate Education Majors- Support Workshops
Drs. Oyeniyi and Couture have facilitated mental health support workshops for undergraduate education majors.
- e. Program Annual Report- The annual report has been written and is under current review by Dr. Donna Wake, UCA CAEP liaison.

II. SCCN Advisory Board Members

- a. Please share two or three **current challenges** that your students are facing that you (or other school counselors) are trying to assist with.

Themes noted:

1. **Attendance**- Student attendance has been inconsistent this year. The belief is this could be due to last year the students used the virtual option when necessary. This year most school districts are not offering a virtual option.
2. **Work Ethic**- Students have not done as good a job at turning in their homework. Many students are needing credit recovery.
3. **Lack of Respect**- Students are showing a lack of respect towards staff and faculty. Tik Tok "Devious Licks" challenges and pranks have plagued schools.

4. **Mental Health-** Many students have indicated they have therapists, however, the wait list to get an appointment can be long. When students need to talk to someone they want to talk to someone now.
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- b. Please share two or three issues that you (or other school counselors) have in your **day-to-day employment** which makes being a school counselor stressful.

Themes noted:

1. **Extra Administrative Tasks-** School counselors having to use time to do administrative tasks is still an issue. When administrators and administrative assistants have turnover, oftentimes, there is a gap in knowledge that school counselors will fill. Committee work can get excessive as school counselors will end up being on multiple committees. They are often seen as the “Face” of the school and will be in charge of putting on events and being in contact with community members. During training to be a school counselor, they do not get training on administrative tasks or event planning.
2. **Proactive vs Reactive-** School counselors need to react quickly each day in their jobs. The goal is to work towards being more proactive with students and staff. Ideas on how to be more proactive were shared. Some ideas included: delegating work that others can do, setting boundaries, minute meetings with students, and consistently walking the halls in the morning and afternoon to greet students. One school counselor created a handbook that lists all of her duties. She is the only school counselor at her school, so the handbook can be used if she were to be out unexpectedly.

Helpful Suggestions for Program

Get students experience with E-School, Cognos, TAC (Teacher Access Center).
Make sure students get experience across grade levels as much as possible.