



University of Colorado Boulder

Academic Affairs
Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor and Vice Provost
Undergraduate Education

Regent 203
37 UCB
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0037
Phone: (303) 492-8477

October 8, 2018

Shelly Bacon, Associate Vice Provost for Advising and Academic Services
Mary Steiner, Assistant Dean for Students, CEAS
The University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, Colorado 80309

Dear Shelly and Mary,

Over the past several years, several organized campus efforts have examined our first-year student support systems and made recommendations on how to improve the CU Boulder student experience. The fundamental objective of these initiatives is to promote the success of all our students.

The Foundations of Excellence (FoE) initiative has created comprehensive reports with 'best practice' recommendations to improve the CU Boulder student experience related to advising. The need for resources, structures, and processes that support a coordinated and comprehensive approach to advising is highlighted in FoE, Academic Futures, and Accreditation as well as the report from the earlier Campus Advising Exploratory Group. These multiple strategic initiatives advance recommendations calling for significant changes in our advising structure on campus.

The desired future state has a high probability of enhancing the student experience, increasing retention and graduation rates, and providing more stability to our enrollment management strategy. What is not clear is what impacts, if any, a transition from our current practices to the proposed future state might have on other elements of the campus. As we transition to a new future state, the goal is to improve the student experience via academic advising in a way that mitigates any unintended negative consequences to our students, staff, faculty, and campus budget.

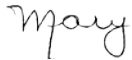
I am requesting that you co-chair an important Academic Advising Committee that will be charged with providing recommendations to the campus for the adoption of transformational recommendations to improve the first year student experience that have been advanced by several key initiatives on our campus. Specifically, I would like the working group to provide the campus with:

- a) an overall review and assessment of advising structures and services across campus
- b) a campus-wide mission, vision, value statement for advising
- c) a roadmap for establishing advisors as first-point-of-contact and source of holistic student support, including identification of assets, gaps, and opportunities related to that model
- d) a plan for ensuring academic advisors across all academic units and relevant persons and offices within Student Affairs have seamless communication with each other, including sharing information and data

- e) a First Year Advising Network model that can be implemented in Fall 2019, and augmented thereafter, including an assessment of the financial, communications, and personnel challenges and opportunities that would result from adoption of this FoE recommendation
- f) metrics by which campus leadership can determine the success of any proposed changes to advising

I will ask for the committee's report and recommendations by February 1, 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary".

Mary Kraus
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education