

Advisor Survey Taken; Shows a Lack of Spirit

UNIVERSITY PARK (APS)—Results of a survey on academic advising from 11 of 18 Commonwealth Campuses show a "vigorous spirit of advising" which is lacking at the campus level, according to John Casciotti, University Council member from the Altoona Campus.

Rating their advisors, 19 percent of the students classified their advisers as Excellent; 35 percent as Fair; 15 percent as Poor; and 3 percent as Terrible. According to Casciotti, the mean is 3.46—midway between Fair and Good—when the results are put on a 5-4-3-2-1 scale for comparison.

61 percent of the students surveyed said their advisor was helpful in determining what courses to schedule; 30 percent said they were not helpful; the remainder was unsure.

In discussing career possibilities, 32 percent said their advisors were helpful while 50 percent said they were not. The remainder were undecided.

A greater majority (55 percent) said their advisors were not

helpful in discussing other academic or non-academic problems; 33 percent said their advisors were helpful, the remainder were unsure.

As an overall observation by the students surveyed, 18 percent said their campus put a good deal of emphasis on quality academic advising; 36 percent classified their campus emphasis as "some"; 46 percent said "not clearly enough" emphasis was being given at their campus.

Casciotti also surveyed students, looking for opinion differences according to class, degree candidacy, college, campus and sex. He said that sophomores were "more critical of their advisor's help in scheduling courses and giving career advice, but many fewer freshmen were helped with other academic or non-academic problems."

Their was very little difference between baccalaureate and associate degree students, according to the survey.

66 percent of the males sur-

veyed said they felt their advisor was helpful in determining courses. Females reacted with 43 percent feeling that their advisors were of help.

Casciotti said that the students from the College of Engineering and College of Liberal Arts generally were "noticeably below the other colleges" surveyed (Engineering, Science, Liberal Arts, Education, Business Administration, and Human Development).

From the results of the survey, Casciotti concluded that "the largest one or two and the smallest one or two campuses almost always ranked below the others..."

Casciotti said he took the survey in conjunction with the University Council's study of academic advising.

"I see the results not as proof or disproof or anything, but simply as general indicators to consider."

OTIS Seeks Membership On Commonwealth Campus

UNIVERSITY PARK — The Organization of Town Independent Students (OTIS) is seeking representatives at the Commonwealth Campuses.

OTIS, a service organization for students living in off-campus housing, is expanding its organization to include associate members at the Commonwealth Campuses. These members, who would be in constant touch with the University Park officers, would serve as "referral sources through which potential transfer students can keep informed of the State College housing situation," according to OTIS President Jim Rodden.

The job of these associate members would be to let students know about OTIS's services, office hours, and to distribute housing information from OTIS to transfer students at the campuses.

Rodden said there is a possibility that "each campus might want to set up similar organizations at the campus level with OTIS serving as co-ordinator of their activities."

OTIS presently handles day-to-day problems with landlords,

provides legal advice and information about student rights, operates a bail system for students in Centre County, and publishes and distributes consumer - and housing - related literature.

Rodden said that the "majority of tenant-landlord problems are based on simple misunderstandings." OTIS's job is to serve as mediator.

"In the event we don't get satisfaction from the landlord, we can go to the Borough Housing Authority in cases which have to do with housing standards," said Rodden.

Many of the problems have to do with security deposits. Rodden said that a landlord has "30 days to either pay back the deposit or furnish a list of apartment damages." If the landlord does not comply, he has no right to the security deposit.

Two additional services which OTIS would like to provide are a state-wide bail system and a public interest research group.

The bail system would be set up similarly to one in California. Any student would be able to use the service based on payment of a four or five dollar membership fee.

"We certainly would like to move into the area of setting up a public interest research group, Penn PIRG, to help in consumer and landlord problems," said Rodden. PIRG could hire a full-time lawyer to do research and offer legal aid.

Rodden encouraged Commonwealth Campus students to stop by the OTIS office on the ground floor of the Hetzel Union Building when they come to State College in search of housing.

"We're open weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. We also can arrange to be open Sunday afternoons if a student calls us in advance" (814-865-6851) to set up an appointment, he said.

Ms. Atkin New "Mom" In Niagara

Niagara Hall finally has a housemother again. Ms. Atkin, 21, was born in Erie. Behrend is not entirely new to her, as her sister attended school here several years ago.

"Mom" Atkin was a Resident Assistant (RA) for almost two years, so she can now take such things as abortion, suicide, fire, rape, etc. in stride.

She attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania from 1968-1970. She then transferred to Gannon College where she graduated with a B.A. in English. One might wonder why someone with a B.A. in English would want such a job. "Mom" Atkin plans to work for her M.A. in counseling at Edinboro State College. She wanted something besides secretarial work, as she enjoys working with people. When offered this job, she thought it would fit perfectly with her school career, and her interests.

Among her other interests "Mom" Atkin has worked with Upward Bound—a federal program concerned primarily with helping underprivileged high school students take college credit courses on weekends.

She has also worked extensively with an English Professor on the subject of Images of Women in Western Literature. After extensive research they planned a guide so the course can now be taught for College credit. This information is now on file in Washington D.C. at the National Organization of Women (NOW) office.

"Mom" Atkin is on duty from 12:00-7:30 a.m. and welcomes anyone to stop in and talk anytime. She too is a student who will pull all-nighters, understands college life, and is looking for new friends.

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