

Faculty Advisor
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POLICIES

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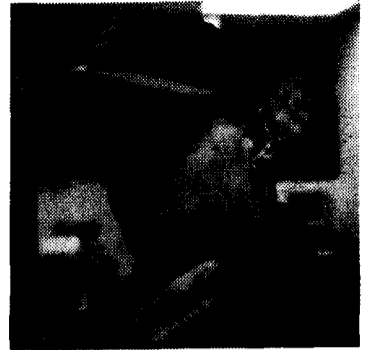
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COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

By PETE STRELLA, EDITOR IN CHIEF

Something needs to be done about the academic advisor situation at Penn State Harrisburg. There are too many students who are forced to stay an extra semester because of bad advice from advisors. Sometimes advisors tell students to register for a course that is not required and other times they neglect to inform students of a course that is needed to graduate.



The situation is further complicated because certain classes are offered only once a year. If the advisor fails to notice this, students may expect to take a class in the spring when it is only offered in the fall. The student then has to stay an extra semester for one or two courses. It would be ideal for classes to be offered year-round, but this is not always possible unless enough students need the course.

Our advisors are not completely to blame. The system needs to be tweaked. At Penn State Harrisburg, academic advising is nothing more than a side job performed by already busy faculty. Most professors teach a full course load and some of them may view advising as an inconvenience.

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First-year teachers are assigned to advise students even though they are not familiar with the University's academic infrastructure. Some teachers advise 25 students while others advise only two. The policy that allows students to choose their own advisor is agreeable, yet the load needs to be more evenly distributed.

Penn State Harrisburg students would be best suited if the University hired additional staff members that focused solely on advising students. However, the University's fiscal situation is bleak. It would most likely be funded by tuition increases that students will not want to pay.

Meanwhile, the best solution is for students to pay extra attention to the courses they take. They should get a second opinion if they are unsure of their advisor. Sometimes students will place schoolwork ahead of making sure they take the correct classes. In reality, both are of equal importance.

According to *The Patriot-News*, the state Senate has passed a bill that would lower the legal alcohol limit to 0.08 percent from the current 0.1 percent. The House is expected to approve the bill on Monday Sept. 29, meaning the law will most likely go into effect by Oct. 1.

Lastly I would like to compliment Maintenance on the job they did to prepare this campus for Hurricane Isabel. They tied the trashcans to poles, put up barricades along College Avenue to avoid flooding, and cut the power to Meade Heights, which lowered the chance of power being lost in the Olmsted building. The storm was not as strong as anticipated, but it is always better to expect the worst.

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