Academic Advisory System
Faculty of Engineering

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The background

- 3-3-4
- Broad-based admission
- Declining intake quality
### Student mixing in 2012 admission

#### 3-year curriculum:
Programme-based admission
- JUPAS (HKALE): 332
- Other local: 118
- Non-local: 16

#### 4-year curriculum
Broad-based admission
- JUPAS(DSE): 485
- Other local: 5
- Mainland: 58
- Other non-local: 9

### Broad-based admission
- One admission line for all programmes
- Foundation year in 4-year curriculum
- No “potential major”
- Major selection at the end of foundation year
- Soft quota
- Better academic performance → higher priority in major selection
Declining intake quality

- Clearly seen from admission statistics
- Similar trend in other institutions
- 58 transferring-out cases in 2012

Problems:

Students are academically less capable and not motivated
But, workload is heavy

Academic advisory system

- For foundation-year students
  Faculty-level advisors team

- For students with confirmed major
  Advisors from respective departments
Current practice

- Department based
- Implementation 1: EE, CSE,
  All faculty members serve as advisors
  Level 1 and 2 integrated
- Implementation 2: IE, MAE, SE
  All faculty members serve as level 1 advisors
  A small number of level 2 advisors
- No specific action taken for “marginal” students (GPA 1.5 – 2.0)

Faculty advisors team

- For foundation-year students under broad-based admission
- Currently 31 members from the five departments
- Many join the team voluntarily (vs. assigned by the HoD)
- A re-treat organized in June 2012 for experience and info sharing
Advisee-advisor matching

- 31 advisors for 550 students
- 1:18

Considerations in the matching:
- College affiliation
- Mixing of different backgrounds
- Language proficiency of advisor
- Experience of advisor

Advisee-advisor interaction

- First group meeting in September
  Arranged centrally by the Faculty
  To break the communication barrier
- Subsequent activities to be initiated by individual advisors/advisees
- Date of meeting recorded and kept centrally at Faculty
Support to advisors

- Social activities: $150 per student per year
- Administrative support on meeting arrangement and record keeping
- Information and experience sharing
  - Intranet
  - Frequent email communication
  - Social gathering for advisors

Faculty Committee on Academic Advising

- AD (Student Affairs) + AD (Education) + Dept. Representatives
- For foundation-year students:
  - Coordinating the work of faculty level-1 advisors
  - Serving as level-2 advisors
- On department-level advising:
  - Make sure a system is in place and properly implemented
Other venues of academic advising

- “Engineering Design” courses
  Newly created for foundation-year students
  Lectures + lab work + group work
  Professors act as mentors
- Summer research internship
- Student team for external competition
- Final-year project

Academic advising for postgraduate students

- Taken care of by individual departments or programmes
- For research postgraduates, thesis supervisors are de facto the level-1 advisors
- For students with academic problems, the respective graduate divisions would take the responsibilities
Personal views

- We need a SYSTEM
- But PEOPLE are the key
- Students love to communicate with professors, not simply listen to them
- Despite heavy workload, many colleagues really commit themselves to interact with students
- Students grow, and so do their professors

Thank you!

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