

Ohio Academic Advising Association (OHAAA) July 2009 E-Newsletter

This is the first of many newsletters the OHAAA board and I plan to send over the next year. We are very pleased to be working to increase and improve OHAAA for each one of you, our OHAAA members. To get started we have identified and adopted the following five goals we will be working on this coming year. They are as follows;

1. **Do What We Do Best First** - Provide quality conferences and regional seminars to meet the needs of Ohio academic advisors.
2. **Increase Quality Membership** - OHAAA is only as good as its members, it is every member's responsibility to help build this membership.
3. **Increase Quality Communications** – Provide the OHAAA membership with monthly updates and information, improve and increase information from the president and board members to the membership and from the membership to the board members, improve and increase information available on our OHAAA website to help information and discussion to flow more easily.
4. **Build Collaboration** – Identify ways to implement avenues for the OHAAA membership to collaborate with each other and with other beneficial organizations.
5. **Develop and Provide Professional Development** – Identify, create and provide opportunities for professional development for the OHAAA membership.

The board met for our first official meeting and had a great deal of official business to discuss. We also had Nancy Roadruck, the NACADA Ohio representative, attend our meeting as a special guest. We had individual reports from each board member, discussion about the results of our annual conference, planning for the fall regional, position responsibilities, and new projects we are considering.

In keeping with our above goals;

1. **Do What We Do Best First** - We reviewed our last conference and will continue to study the comments you, our members, provided us. We are also continuing to work on our upcoming regional seminar scheduled for November 6, 2009 at Ohio University. We plan to have a panel of academic department administrators to discuss how we academic advisors can continue to provide excellent customer service to our students and continue to gain professional development in an economy that has tightened all of our budgets.

2. **Increase Quality Membership** - Each board member discussed how she plans to reach more academic advisors within her college/university group set. Each member on the board also wants to hear from you as a member. Please note that our contact information can be found on the OHAAA website; <http://www.academicadvising.org/>

3. **Increase Quality Communications** – Besides this, the first of many monthly e-news letters, Karyl, our web master and president- elect, has added many new features to our website. There are introductions to our board members, new links to other beneficial websites and information about our next OHAAA event. The board has also decided to post our board meeting minutes on

our web site to let the membership see what we do and what we are working on. Karyl will continue to update and improve our site so be sure to check back often. I highly encourage you to check it out and give us feedback as to what you like and what you would like to see added. Please note that the goal of increased communications is not listed as a one way street. We sincerely want to hear from you as a member. The kinds of feedback we hope to get are many and varied. We certainly want to hear about how OHAAA is working for you, but we also want to know what is going on, good or bad, on your campuses that you want other advisors to know. We are hoping to come up with a listserv or some other interactive tool that will allow our OHAAA members to talk to other OHAAA members so that we can share and learn from each other. This form of communication and collaboration will be coming soon to our website too.

4. Build Collaboration – We have made efforts to improve our relationship with our “parent” organization NACADA. Nancy Roadruck, the NACADA Ohio representative, has a standing invitation to our board meetings so that we can learn the latest news from NACADA and so they can see and hear from us. Nancy has encouraged everyone to visit the NACADA website and check out the latest programs and activities including the upcoming National Conference in San Antonio, Texas. I have also had several discussions with Kim Ferguson, the president of Ohio College Personnel Association (OCPA). She and I are working collaboratively to promote each other’s organizations’ activities. Please be sure to check out the attachment (OCPA E-News Letter 7-09) about the OCPA planned activities over the next year.

5. Develop and Provide Professional Development – We plan to use the new increase in membership dues to provide more opportunities for membership development. Nancy also shared with us that NACADA will be providing a “Great Lakes Leaders” \$1,000 grant for professional development for which any advisor within our NACADA region can apply.

I also wanted to let you know that the OHAAA board meets once a month in a location that is central to all of the current board members. This past meeting was held at a restaurant in Kenton Ohio. We, as a board, would like to meet on a college/ university campus when we can. If your college/ university is interested in meeting and talking with one or all of the board members, please let us know. If it works out for the majority, maybe we can hold our meeting on your campus and make time to interact with academic advisors where you work.

Lastly, I want to encourage you to enjoy your OHAAA membership and get the most out of it. The best way I know how to make that happen is by getting involved. That can mean something as simple as sending us your feedback, or as much as helping us plan upcoming events somewhere in Ohio. Don’t forget to visit the OHAAA website often (<http://www.academicadvising.org/>). All feedback to this e-newsletter can be forwarded to me, Dan Dakin, at daniel.dakin@wright.edu or any one of your OHAAA board members. We look forward to your input.

Have a Great Day!
Dan