

Non-Consent Agenda Item:

Approval to update the Policy on Faculty Support of Students

Effective Term:

Summer/Fall 2016 for all UA teaching faculty

**Proposed Updates to *University Handbook for Appointed Personnel (UHAP)*,
[Chapter 7.01.01, Statement on Professional Conduct](#) (in red font):**

In addition to fulfilling the responsibilities listed in the above "Statement," faculty members are expected to support students in the following ways:

- *By **beginning** ~~meeting~~ and terminating classes at the scheduled times;*
- *By posting and keeping a schedule of office hours during which they are available **to students in person and/or online** ~~for conferences~~;*
- *By **responding to in-person and/or online student inquiries and comments in a timely manner, as specified on the syllabus**;*
- *By **providing feedback and assessment on projects, assignments, quizzes, and exams in a timely manner**;*
- *By **advising or mentoring** students, **per college/department policy** ~~during orientation and registration~~.*

Rationale for the updates:

- Faculty policies on holding office hours and advising students were established in the 1970s; faculty responsibilities have changed since then.
- Formal office hours are necessary and appropriate for in-person courses but not for online or even hybrid courses, where most communication is conducted electronically.
- As professional academic advisors have assumed more responsibility for advising services, fewer faculty members advise students, particularly during orientations and registration periods. The faculty's role has shifted toward mentoring students—on discipline-specific areas of emphasis, graduate programs and/or careers in their field of study.
- Student learning is increased with the faculty's constructive comments on assignments and timely assessments of quizzes/exams.

Approvals:

Undergraduate Council: 11/10/15

Graduate Council: 11/20/15

Academic Deans: 1/26/16

Administrative Review: 2/08/16

FS: