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: