From Pat,

I would like to begin answering Gladys’ questions about Academic Advising and the Mentorvention Plan by saying that advising is an essential part of whatever success we hope to have in developing an Art Majors program here at HCC. We need your help. We have a Studio Degree, but no real system in place to support the students in that program. We are so big, so spread out, so focused on our general education students, that we have students who have expressed a wish to major in our program, and they get behind before they even start.

The advising plan is in its infancy, but it is beginning to work. I have two students who have been paying close attention to enrolling in the appropriate classes and they are each within a semester of completion of their degree.

**I do have one tip for you.** If you set up an appointment with a student, have them print out and bring a copy of their unofficial transcript to your meeting. If they are a first semester student ask them to print out a copy of their schedule. That way, you can begin immediately to help them choose appropriately for their next semester.

We are now working on ways to effectively recruit new art majors. If you have read Corey’s report, you know that our trip to Baltimore was very thought-provoking. We will be talking with each of you about how you can help make this a better place.

**Response to Gladys’ specific questions about Mentorvention:**

1. Are we doing this for ALL of our students?  Or just those listed as VPA majors?

**Answer: Those listed as VPA**

1. If the latter, then which VPA majors?  Of the 7 VPA majors in my classes:

 *(--1 is listed as Studio Art*

*--1 is listed as Music (I can't advise there)*

*--2 are listed as Fashion Design (workforce program--NOT part of VPA, and outside my expertise)*

*--1 is  listed as Undecided*

*--2 are listed as simply AA (no discipline mentioned)*

 **Answer:** Those students listed as Studio Art. If you have a music, dance or drama major, you could send the name to Dr. Jaber.

The Fashion students are mistakenly labeled (by the college) as VPA and we are trying to figure out how to correct that, but a student should know if their intent was to major in fashion or studio art.

3.  The checklist says to "discuss/create individual academic advising plan."   The existing plan for the studio art/ art history courses is very formalized--I presume we were not meant to change it.

**Answer:** The reality is that each of our AA in Studio Arts students is going to arrive in our classes coming from a different point – they might be second or third semester art students, they might be new students, etc. They might have taken studio courses in excess of the plan. They might need more 2-D or 3-D courses. The plan is formal in that it is the approved degree plan by the state, specific to HCC. However, we do have some substitute latitude in the studio courses. Dr. Reilly, Corey or I can submit substitution requests. As the faculty advisor you would need to confer with either one of us if you think a substitution might work and save the student some time and money towards earning her degree.

1. In regards to the non-art courses, are we simply meant to make sure the students' choices conform to the core curriculum you sent? *( I can do that.  But other than that, I'm not comfortable helping our students choose courses outside my expertise of studio art.  The HCC Workload Guidelines separate academic advising (faculty advising within their discipline expertise) from general advising (which the counselors do).*

**Answer:** Yes – our degree plan also includes recommended core courses. They are highlighted on the advising materials, so you can simply point that out to the students.

1. What do you mean by "cohort participation?”

**Answer:** In this case, the word “cohort” is used to define the group of art majors across the system. So we are using the term “cohort participation” to describe activities experienced by that group, the whole group.

1. What is a "cohort participation plan?"

**Answer:** The idea of the need for a plan comes out of our post NASAD visit discussions**.** We are trying to develop a plan. We welcome ideas.It refers to the fact that our art majors (maybe 25 across the system) are in need of some activities/discussions/ critiques with each other. The isolation across the system is not helpful in building a sense of “learning community” for our majors. So, we are trying to brainstorm ideas of how we might accomplish this.

One initial idea is to create an online environment for the majors to share news and receive announcements, so please be sure to get a good email address from any major you talk to so they could be included in that environment.

1. What is a testimonial video?

**Answer:** we have discussed the idea of creating short videos about the art student experience here at HCC. Certainly, many students would not be interested in this. If, while advising a student, you sense that he might be a good voice of the program, you should share that information with Corey or me.

1. If a Studio Art major is taking art courses from multiple faculty, do multiple faculty fill out multiple advising plans?

**Answer:** No. If you have a student listed in your class as a declared major, the first question you might ask them is whether or not they have selected their Art Advisor. If they answer no, then you might request that they select one of the FT art faculty members to act as their Advisor. You might identify the FT members at your campus and also let the student know that you would be happy to help, etc.

\*One more tip, if a student knows what school they might want to transfer to, HCC has a page that lists transfer equivalencies according to university. Here is the link:

<http://www.hccs.edu/programs/transfers/transferring-credits/>