

Jen,

The last advisor and counselor departmental meeting was last week. They don't meet again as a group till August. Let's plan on a presentation on that day.

In the meantime I suggest we get together with the counseling chair, Mark Osea and Steve Watkin, who lead the outreach and matriculation processes. They can at least start getting any perceptions corrected.

What do you think is a good time for that?

---> via Zav's iPhone

On May 12, 2018, at 9:25 PM, Jennifer Garrett <jennifer.garrett@bakersfieldcollege.edu> wrote:

I will try to get names but I'm not sure if I can. A few were supposed to write me email but I haven't seen any. I will remind their directors. I don't think an email will work at all. I'm getting it at every school so I am wondering if it's most of the counselors. Is there a way to arrange a meeting and just have a discussion with them. I really want to get this taken care of. It's so embarrassing when I go to a school and they open that discussion in the classroom and I'm left to have to just tell them what they need to tell a counselor and I do not make the counselors look good when I talk about it and that makes me feel bad. I simply don't know what else to do. Taking choir will not stop them from graduating. Actually, for most of my students it's the reason they come to school that day and it gets them to their other classes. But without a discussion between us I don't see how it will change.

Thanks Zav.

Jen

From: Zav Dadabhoy
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2018 10:55 AM
To: John Gerhold; Jennifer Garrett
Cc: Emmanuel Mourtzanos
Subject: Re: counselors

Jen and John,

Thank you for bringing this to my attention, and yes I agree with everything you write (especially the part about students loving Jen!!) and will look into it.

Jen, if you able to, please give me specific names so I can look up who the advisor/counselor was, and make sure we correct them. I find it best to address this directly, but if I can not, then we might just have to send a "generic" email to all—which, in my opinion is never enough!

Thanks so much.

Zav

On May 9, 2018, at 9:27 AM, John Gerhold <jgerhold@bakersfieldcollege.edu> wrote:

Hi Zav,

I'm bringing this issue to you as VP over counseling (please read below). We have tried to address this at lower levels on multiple occasions and the message simply isn't getting through. Our concern is more than maintaining enrollment in our ensembles, it's really about the emotional health of our students and the positive outlet they have through music making in choir and all of our instrumental ensembles as well. Keep in mind that Jennifer Garrett is this year's Sam McCall award winner. The students love her and her program. This leads to an emotional attachment to the college and educational persistence at BC. We should be encouraging more students to engage in this way, not less.

It's not "a waste of time."

John

From: Jennifer Garrett
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 3:46 PM
To: John Gerhold <jgerhold@bakersfieldcollege.edu>
Subject: counselors

John,

I know you have enough to worry about so I really don't want to bring this up. But it has some much affect on my program that I cannot ignore it. I've been to a lot of high schools and the experiences from students with counselors is worse than ever. Every person I've talked to at the high schools that is not a music major has been severely discouraged from joining College choir. The girls at East yesterday came up and told me that she is in 3 choirs at East and wants to sing in College choir next year. But when she met with the BC counselor the counselor told her that it was a "waste of time" and would not benefit her in any way. She said she repeatedly told the counselor she wanted to do choir and she responded that she should do something like art or drama.

I am compiling first hand experiences from students and the high school directors. I would like this to go to someone above counseling. Even above the Dean. Do you know who that would be and would you possibly meet with them with me so that I stay calm?

This simply cannot continue. The students love College Choir and so many of them say it is what gets them to school on Monday and Wednesday. They have a strong bond, help each other in many ways, and are involved in campus! But none of that seems to matter in the "Pathway" system. I know there needs to be a system. I just wish they wouldn't discourage a student from something that helps them deal with their lives.

I appreciate your listening ear.

Jen