The Advising Practitioners Forum at Syracuse University

I. **Mission**: The Advising Practitioners Forum (APF) consisting of academic advisors and student services professionals from schools, colleges, and offices across campus will:

a. Promote the development of skills and knowledge in the areas of academic advising and student development and encourage continuous professional improvement.

b. Provide recognition, affirmation and support for colleagues.

c. Identify current issues for members and guests to review in order to develop and share effective strategies and approaches.

d. Introduce new staff to colleagues from university advising and student services offices in order to facilitate professional networking and communication.

e. Share staffing changes, new initiatives, policies, and procedures with staff from university advising and student services offices in order to promote collaboration and quality advising services.

f. Act as a collective resource for university administration in providing feedback regarding larger university goals and trends.

g. Maintain supportive lines of communication across colleges and units.

II. **History:** In February 2000, advising staff from College of Arts and Sciences Academic Advising and Counseling Services and the Office of Supportive Services attended the Regional Conference of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) in Freeport, Maine. It became apparent that there existed at Syracuse significant needs in the areas of professional development, information, communication, and mutual support within the expanding cadre of student services personnel. However, there was no existing forum to serve these needs. The genesis of the "Advising Practitioners Forum" was a suggestion for staff to meet and share ideas on a regular basis. Responses have been such that an expanded program of activities has been developed.

III. **Structure:**

a. Meeting frequency: Since its inception, APF has aimed to meet three times a semester. Moving forward, the goal is to meet regularly three times each semester and to communicate the meeting dates and times for all three meetings in advance. In order to encourage maximum attendance, meeting dates will alternate between Monday and Thursday mornings.

b. Leadership structure: At the behest of the Associate Provost

c. Maintenance of APF listserv: By the leadership group.

d. Committees: APF has no standing committees, but ad hoc working groups have been used to meet the needs of specific projects or events.

IV. **Active Participants**: APF has an "open door" policy and welcomes advising staff from all schools and colleges as well as staff from student services offices.

Activities to support the continuing development of Advisors and advising through APF activities might include:-

Conference and Workshop attendance

Co-sponsorship of relevant Webinars

A shared Journal subscription

Advising materials

Professional membership

Invited speaker with reception

Advising Retreat

Local Area Workshop or Mini-conference