

# New Student Orientation Committee

February 4, 2025

1. Welcome and Review of Minutes from Last Meeting
2. Guided Self Placement and Mandatory Advising
  - Suggestions on implementation
  - Other areas of concern
3. Online Orientation Updates and Questions



## Notes:

*Attendance: N. Lovely, N. Bergan, M. McDowell, D. Lindsley, C. Heidelberg, D. Cunningham*

Agenda Item 2: We reviewed the Advantage Orientation presentation and thoughts from those who reviewed the link and those who were in attendance for that meeting in October. The product is clean and seems to have a greater appeal to those who are coming to college these days. There is question about the current company we use and their contract. This past year we saw 744 students out of 1100 orientation spots available. It seems more students and families are coming in through the Orientation process.

The following institutions use Advantage Orientation: Ferris State, Eastern Michigan, MSU, LCC and McComb CC.

Began discussion about mandatory advising with the inclusion of GSP and how to make “mandatory” mean something.

More discussion around adjusting time slots on Advisor calendars so that they can see some appointments for longer time frames than others. It may be necessary to add an “intake” or triage form to the mix for frontline staff.

Suggestions from the team for ensuring Advising is Mandator:

- No registration the week of classes starting
- Any walk-ins during the first week of classes should be for second seven or second 12 classes only
- Transfer students without math or English classes may be a concern
- Anyone who needs to fill out a new application should be made to complete Orientation and do the advising session
- Only allow online orientation if needed but still require advising before HOLD can be removed
- Maybe there are 2 holds: one for Orientation (virtual or in person) and the other for Advising session for those who don't do an in-person orientation.

Issues currently facing:

- Classes are often full when we let people enroll late
- Data shows that those who add late are usually first to withdraw or don't do well
- All paperwork isn't done and they end up getting dropped due to non-payment
- Those who get dropped may have taken up an hour appointment with an advisor only to be dropped
- Our messaging makes it seem like they can enroll at any time and that isn't good for retention or completion