

# Initial Report

Last Modified: 03/04/2015

1. The session that was most valuable to my situation was: (Session #, Session name, Presenter name)

Text Response
CS17 – Managing Mental Health Situations in the Advising Office, Yolanda Fountain
They were all great!
CS17 Managing Mental Health Yolanda Fountain
Supervisory Style!
The 30 Minute Advisor Too Many Students, Not Enough Space: How to Turn a No Into Student Driven Action
CS44, How to motivate the underperforming student, Jamie Davis
CS17, Managing Mental Health Situations in an Advising Office, Yolanda Fountain
CS52, That large sucking sound-How to stop ADD from draining your university of future leaders, creators, and performance based dollars, Frank Orifici
CS11-Creating a Military Friendly Advising Center
Advising Millennials
Several sessions were very informative and helpful.
#CS44, How to Motivate Under performing Students, Jamie Davis
CS 50, Connecting with Students: How Academic Advisors Can Foster Genuine Relationships with Students, Shirley Caballero, Florida International University
Not everyone is supposed to be an engineer: using appreciative to guide students to a major that best fits their skill set
State of Florida Winner
CS 26 ERECT Relationships: Multicultural Awareness and Sensitivity Enhancement Training, Rene Alvarez and Anthony Iannelli
CS20 Too Many Students, Not Enough Space: How to Turn a "No" Into Student Driven Action Ginther and Liverman
CS34, Designing and implementing sustainable high-impact advising practices to facilitate student success, K.K. & K.K.
CS40, Writing for NACADA, Kyle Ellis and W. Kohle Paul
Advisor/Counselor influence Dr. Clifton Brown
The 30-Minute Advisor #CS3 Eileen Snyder from Armstrong State University
Peer Advising, Kennesaw State Univ.
Session 3, CS 20: Too many students, Not enough Space: How to turn a No into student driven action
All of the presentations I was able to take good things from.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	24

2. Overall, I thought the Conference was:

#	Question	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Total Responses	Mean
1	Advanced Mailing, Publicity, Etc.	0	6	25	45	76	3.51
2	Conference Location	2	8	20	45	75	3.44
3	Facilities	2	15	23	38	78	3.24
4	Meals	4	8	24	39	75	3.31
5	Registration Process	0	1	12	63	76	3.82
6	Keynote Dr. Lawrence Wit	0	0	6	62	68	3.91
7	Opening Reception	5	11	17	25	58	3.07
8	Quality of the Concurrent Sessions	0	9	35	31	75	3.29
9	Closing Wrap Up	0	7	20	15	42	3.19
10	Overall, I thought the conference was:	0	9	25	45	79	3.46

Statistic	Advanced Mailing, Publicity, Etc.	Conference Location	Facilities	Meals	Registration Process	Keynote Dr. Lawrence Wit	Opening Reception	Quality of the Concurrent Sessions	Closing Wrap Up	Overall, I thought the conference was:
Min Value	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	2	2
Max Value	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Mean	3.51	3.44	3.24	3.31	3.82	3.91	3.07	3.29	3.19	3.46
Variance	0.41	0.63	0.73	0.76	0.18	0.08	0.98	0.45	0.50	0.48
Standard Deviation	0.64	0.79	0.86	0.87	0.42	0.29	0.99	0.67	0.71	0.69
Total Responses	76	75	78	75	76	68	58	75	42	79

3. How many REGIONAL conferences have you attended before this conference?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	None		27	34%
2	1-2		28	35%
3	3-4		14	18%
4	5 or more		10	13%
	Total		79	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	2.09
Variance	1.03
Standard Deviation	1.02
Total Responses	79

4. How did you learn of this conference? (Mark all that apply)

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Talking with a colleague		36	46%
2	E-mail announcement from NACADA		44	56%
3	Other:		15	19%

Other:
NACADA Web-site
Searched NACADA website
Kyle Ellis
co-workers
We sponsored it--AU
Knowledge of event
Supervisor
Our office attends every year
NACADA web site
Independent searching
AU Advisor's Caucus
Leadership
Handout at Annual Conference

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Total Responses	79

5. To what extent did the conference meet your expectations?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Not at all		0	0%
2	Some		18	23%
3	Most		42	53%
4	All		19	24%
	Total		79	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	2
Max Value	4
Mean	3.01
Variance	0.47
Standard Deviation	0.69
Total Responses	79

6. Which of the following best describes your primary role at your institution?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Faculty Advisor		2	3%
2	Academic Advisor		53	68%
3	Counselor		0	0%
4	Academic Advisor/Counselor		5	6%
5	Advising Administrator		8	10%
6	Administrator with responsibilities over several areas, one of which is advising		4	5%
7	Graduate student		3	4%
8	Institutional position supports advising i.e. Registrar, admissions, financial aid, etc.		3	4%
9	Affiliated with a college or university but not in any of the roles previously mentioned		0	0%
10	Not affiliated with an institution of higher education		0	0%
11	Other:		0	0%
	Total		78	

Other:

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	8
Mean	3.04
Variance	3.34
Standard Deviation	1.83
Total Responses	78

7. How many years have you been in advising? (as an advisor, administrator, or faculty member)

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Less than 5 years		38	49%
2	5-10 years		24	31%
3	11-20 years		12	16%
4	More than 20 years		3	4%
	Total		77	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.74
Variance	0.75
Standard Deviation	0.86
Total Responses	77

8. My recommendations for future conferences include: (topics/speakers/external activities/type/length of sessions, etc.)

Text Response	
More best practices, more on leadership and productivity in advisement	
More sessions	
The mechanics of assessment	
Seems the conference is always compact, go to a third day and have a little networking, social outings and breathing room instead of hurry and get to session, hurry and get to session, hurry and get to session, then time to wrap up and go home, which means you skip breakfast or first session due to packing and checking out which time is before conf end. Not enough networking on Monday and Tuesday.	
Make sure there is plenty of space for the number of people attending	
The biggest issue with the conference was the limited space of the concurrent sessions. Every single session I attended had people sitting on the floor, which I had to do twice. I recommend an early RSVP option that allows the organizers to get a more accurate estimate of how many attendees to expect.	
Make sure the room is filled with setting for each session.	
It was almost too many options, but I guess if you have space then it works. I would have liked to see the poster presentations in the hallway for more opportunities of viewing.	
Make sure to have enough space for concurrent sessions. There were many rooms that were way beyond capacity which took away from the experience.	
The rooms were too small to hold everyone during the presentations. I would encourage the conference to find a location next year that would accommodate the sessions with more chairs and space.	
This facility was a little crowded/congested. A slightly bigger conference center would have been better.	
it seemed a pattern that 45 minute sessions would have been plenty of time for each presentation I attended. I liked that the committee tried and interactive dinner experience the first evening, but I don't think it was as successful as intended.	
Since I noticed some frustration among my advising colleagues, I think it would be good for every concurrent session to include uplifting staff development sessions like career advice and insight for advisors, ways to alleviate stress, ways to get the most out of your advising profession, advice for moving on--in the best interest of students, college, and self	
It would be great if there was a track to earn a certification like Appreciative Advising	
Please find a place with more space. I sat on the floor as often as I sat in a chair, maybe more often, during the sessions.	
The Caribbean region needs to step up and host a conference. Or an "advising cruise."	
Interactive, real time, Skype or other mode online advising for students in 100% online programs. A few of the sessions were titled as such, but ended up not being about how to accomplish this at all.	
A place to sit during opening reception	
I would like to see a bigger venue. This location felt crowded and some of the rooms were very small. I did not enjoy sitting on the floor.	
The seating available in sessions was not enough. The setup of the opening reception was odd with the type of food and no seating available. An advanced programming track for experienced Advisors or a few sessions geared toward that would be helpful.	
The lack of space for the facility was problematic. I think the large crowd hindered some of the presentations.	
Bigger meeting rooms	
more chairs in the rooms, the space was limiting for the number of participants, in my session, nearly 30 people had to sit on the floor and their remarks reflected the seating limitations.	
I work specifically with undecided/undeclared/exploratory students and would have liked to see more for that population. Some of the abstracts were rather vague; it is always better to clearly state what the session will cover, so attendees can make informed decisions about which sessions will be relevant.	
more round table sessions	
Needed to offer more snacks and drinks throughout the day. For a full conference, it lacked in the the extras area. The continental breakfast setup was poor and so was the opening reception where you had the lines blocking the entrances to the ballroom.	
The conference space was beautiful but just too small. I wasn't able to attend sessions I wanted to hear because there was no more space and I sat in the floor for four different sessions. The dining ballroom was so jam packed that people couldn't get in or out once people sat down. My colleagues were in a completely different room for the lunch on day two. It really hindered my experience.	
Make sure the venue is big enough to handle everyone so people don't have to stand or sit on the floor in almost all the sessions.	
Make sure conference rooms are big enough. Too many people had to sit on the floor.	
Performing professional research - common topics, practices, and how to get started Karaoke!	
Topic: How the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) should merge into a single body governing educational success.	
Like topics on admission to limited enrollment, competitive programs, working with catching students who may be pre-disposed to academic struggles and catching them early.	
My previous experience was attending science conferences, I felt the talks were too long, but I understand you need to fill the gaps.	
Speaker-Terry O'Banion	
Tie the closing in with a luncheon and awards to keep the attendance higher and leave on a huge positive note.	
Seating...have plenty:-)	

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	36

9. In what ways was this conference valuable to you?

Text Response
Connecting with people. Hearing new ideas
Meeting with colleagues.
Learning how other institutions deal with similar issues.
The conference sessions are always valuable and I take away and build networks to replicate the materials learned.
Networking.
Many of the concurrent sessions provided valuable information and new strategies with which I can experiment at my own institution. Dr. Wit's keynote speech was especially inspiring and overall, I felt rededicated to my job as an advisor after the conference.
insight into how other schools handle nursing students, assessment, and veterans
I thought all the sessions I attended were very good, both in content and presentation.
This was an opportunity to promote some of our best practices in academic advising and learn about other initiatives. I was able to bring back a couple of ideas to consider for our program.
Networking, Information in sessions.
I learned a lot of new tips and tricks. However, I was encouraged more than anything else. It can be hard to be an advisor and never feel appreciated until you get around other people who share your passions.
Talking with others to better understand how other colleges run and utilize their advising department.
good ideas to take back to my college; opportunities to make connections and socialize with colleagues.
Great ideas that I can implement in my job right away!
The variety of the concurrent sessions was great because it allowed me to hear about many different aspects of advising. The keynote speech was phenomenal and incredibly inspiring. I could have listened to Dr. Wit all day!!
As a new Advising professional this conference helped me learn better advising techniques and tools to better assist my students. it also helped me meet advisors from institutions I am interested in working at and learning more about their advising culture.
Networking with colleagues, getting refreshers and reminders about advising ideas, hearing information that is current and relevant to where I am now
As a new advisor the conference helped to give me additional resources and skills to better do my job. I was able to meet and connect with other professionals in my career.
Gained nuggets of useful information to bring back to my program.
It provided affirmation that our new advising program is on the right track.
Networking with colleagues
I absolutely enjoyed this conference all the way around. It was nice to have a wide range of topics and the speakers chose current issues that are relevant to advising for me.
Confirmed that the processes we already have in place are best practices. Gained some valuable practices that we hope to institute.
Great info provided during sessions
I gained useful and applicable knowledge and materials.
I think the session offered a lot of helpful knowledge for people who are new to advising.
Always gaining knowledge and seeing the what other advisors are doing
The sessions and networking.
It is always valuable to network with peers and hear ideas and case studies from other institutions.
networking and sharing best practices, we were fortunate enough to present and it was a great experience
I learned about the wider world of professional advising, something that is not done at my institution. I learned some good ideas for handling advising sessions that I can apply to my work. I also learned that I have the luxury of working with a very small number of students and perhaps having more of an impact on each of them.
professional development
Keeps me current in my field.
The conference reaffirms and provides motivation to continue in the field.
Networking.
An opportunity to rejuvenate.
Enjoyed having the opportunity to present, meeting advisors from different settings and programs, and getting to meet my state representative.
Confirmed many of the things I was doing right in my daily interactions with students.
In my professional developmental goals
Great topics, great ideas to take back to our unit. Got other advisors in our college excited and reenergized and willing to take our advising practices to a higher level.
It's always valuable when you are able to meet counterparts from other institutions and discuss like issues.
I really enjoyed the Keynote speaker-he was great and inspirational. This conference was helpful to me in being able to meet other people even within my own institution, I had not spoken with some of the advisors until I went to this meeting.
Networking
It is always good to learn new practices or refresh those rusty ones. Also, it is nice to meet and see colleagues.
Networking with other advisors.
Confirmed what works; inspired new ideas, too.
It is always valuable to hear what others at differing institutions are doing, talking about, and thinking.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	47

10. Additional comments:

**Text Response**

Auburn did a great job for Auburn, but the last two location were much better.

Facility was good, but many of the session rooms were overcrowded. More space and more chairs were needed for some of the sessions. Also, I had to leave some of the sessions early because the room was just too cold.

The food for lunch needs to be a choice of items. Not everyone eats sweet potatoes, and not everyone wants to be stuck with the desert (perhaps allergies or just don't like cheese cake or chocolate) because it was the last seat at the table. More time to network and socialize with first time attendees and help them get acclimated.

The 5K was a great thing! Hope you do it again next year.

Great conference. Congrats to those that orchestrated all the events and set up. Really liked the brewery tour as well.

Coffee between sessions would be nice. Overall I learned a great deal and had a good time. Thank you.

The planning committee did a great job putting together the conference! It was apparent that a lot of work and thought went into the conference.

overall great conference!

This was actually the best Region 4 Conference of the ones I have attended. I really appreciated being able to stay in the host facility and having the sessions downstairs. It was so convenient. Also, being in Auburn was nice. I like the convenience of it. Also, the food service staff was excellent.

The conference was great.

All of the sessions that I attended could not accommodate the number of people in the rooms. I had to sit on the floor at two sessions! If I did have a seat, it was still standing-room-only in the back. It is also very hard to concentrate and learn when the room temperatures are freezing! The delicious lunch was hindered by the frigidness of the room as well!

Thanks

Many thanks to the advisors who worked on this conference. I know it was a huge undertaking and we all appreciate your work in putting it on!

The Auburn faculty and staff were amazing. Everyone was so hospitable and welcoming. Excellent hotel and facilities.

The rooms for the conference were loud, crowded and not comfortable. The internet connectivity was not fast enough to allow me to answer emails and work from the conference.

AU did great!

Many sessions were full and I am a senior citizen with back problems who cannot stand for an hour or sit comfortably on the floor. Consider sending out a survey to gauge interest in various topics in order to assign sessions to appropriate room sizes. Especially for the first time attendee session - it was on the registration form, so you had an estimate of how many might be interested.

how can presenters get their feedback?

Seating in the rooms. After the first session, I would arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the session and I still had to sit on the floor or stand. I can understand seating being an issue on the first day, first time frame of sessions. However, it continued to be an issue.

The conference was crowded, which is a good thing that everyone wants to come and support NACADA, but one had to show up early to everything in order to get a seat at a session or expedient food service. Also, I was not expecting breakfast to be so fantastic on the 2nd day of the conference after the breakfast presented on the 1st day - not complaining, though!

The Labor Department reports that school counselors (ASCA) earned a median salary of \$53,600 in 2013/2014. NACADA says the median starting salary for full-time professional Advisor was reported as \$36,000. Why is no one talking about this at NACADA.

Several of my colleagues presented at this conference and many were disappointed to find that their names had been left out of the program despite emails being sent well before the deadline to update the conference program.

I think the conference room sizes were too small, as I had to sit on the floor in two sessions. Also, it seemed as there was a lot of overlap in the concurrent session offerings.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	23

11. What conference costs were covered by your institution? In the comments section, indicate other sources of funding or any explanations of your answers to help us in our future planning.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Conference registration fee		77	97%
2	NACADA Membership		64	81%
3	Hotel expenses		55	70%
4	Mileage and tolls		49	62%
5	Airfare		9	11%
6	Meal expenses		44	56%
7	Other:		0	0%
8	Further comments about your response:		1	1%

Other:	Further comments about your response:
	My institution would have covered airfare if I had flown to Auburn.

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	8
Total Responses	79