

advisory

BOARDS FOR MORE MAJORS

President Gordon helps students make more connections while they are still in college

by Debbie Richard, '02, '04, Assistant Director of Marketing

Organizations frequently rely on the expertise of a governing board – whether trustees, directors, or executive board. Their input and guidance in many ways act as a thermometer for the organization’s stakeholders.

“They (board members) give the students a perspective that what they are learning is just the beginning and everything counts, including the intro stuff.”

– Dr. Gregg Gunsch,
Digital Forensic Science Professor

Another valuable oversight tool for organizations is an advisory board. Such a board typically takes a different direction, serving more of a public relations role as well as providing a perspective from a specific stakeholder group.

Defiance College utilizes advisory boards to guide many of its academic programs, helping them to stay current and in-touch with “the real world.” For example, the Schaufler Advisory Board has helped guide the religion and social work programs since its inception. The Criminal Justice program has an advisory board that consists of law enforcement officers, agencies, and legal representatives that help guide the program and give input on its course work.

Now, President Mark C. Gordon plans to expand the role of advisory boards, creating these groups in more majors that will ultimately be another tool for students to make connections to further their careers.

“Our recent initiative to grow and/or refine academic program advisory boards will benefit Defiance College students in a variety of ways. Most importantly, advisory board members can offer insights and reactions to our curriculum from their professional perspective,” explained Dr. Tim Rickabaugh, interim academic dean. “Additionally, board members can help us to identify and develop vital skills and experiences that are necessary for our graduates to be marketable and successful within their chosen profession. Finally, they can provide professional contacts and/or opportunities for our students as they search for meaningful experiential learning placements and/or entry-level employment opportunities.”

Overall, the advisory boards are developed to help enhance an academic major as well as the students and college as a whole. With experience at the local,

regional and national levels, board members are individuals who could have a significant influence on the program.

The newest advisory board to be formed for the college is for the Digital Forensic Science major.

“The advisory board is made up of people working in the digital forensic science field with some of the individuals being alumni,” said Dr. Gregg Gunsch, professor of digital forensic science.

“I like that they reinforced what I teach. The students liked hearing from professionals in their major. Some students attend the advisory board meetings, while the others get to meet them in person when they present in class. The board members reinforce why the students need the material and need the fundamentals. They give the students a perspective that what they are learning is just the beginning and everything counts, including the intro stuff.”

In addition, advisory boards are planned for the Allied Health, Arts and Humanities, and Business divisions. ◆



The Defiance College Delta Pi Chapter held its annual Founder's Day Celebration in April 2009. Alumnae attending the event included, from left: Julia James-Wojtas '06, Kate Kelch '08, Amy Reading '08, Melynda Drew, Renee Sevens '08, Shaune Skinner '75, Marilyn Buchman, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Pi Chapter's first advisor, Kate (Lambert) Hayfield '99, and Erica Bishop '02. This year's event will be held on April 18. More information? Contact alumni@defiance.edu.