

# Student Ambassadors

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ENRICHING THE ADVISING EXPERIENCE

# Introductions

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Ms. Shannon K. Porter  
Assistant Director of Advising  
sporter1@radford.edu

- Serves as the primary professional advisor to 350 pre-business freshmen and sophomores
- Created the COBE Ambassadors student organization in her first year
- Created and oversees the COBE Peer Tutoring Center
- Serves as the primary faculty advisor to the COBE Ambassadors



Ms. Nasim F. Schwab  
Director of Advising  
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- Oversees the advising program
- Serves as the primary professional advisor to 250 pre-business freshmen and sophomores
- Collaborated with Ms. Porter to create the COBE Ambassadors
- Serves as a faculty advisor to the COBE Ambassador Exec. Board

- they keep getting younger...
- technology demands are increasing...
- they're coming to college academically under-prepared...
- it's getting harder to connect with them on their level...





# Objectives

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- *Challenge(s) Accepted!*
  - An outline of the challenges faced by professional advisors and how this group can help
- *Mission Impossible: Advising Protocol*
  - How this group helps support the COBE Advising mission
- *ANGTFT (Ain't Nobody Got Time For That)*
  - Starting your own group; the “how-tos!”
- *They Call Me Gru*
  - Enriching the advising process
- *The Pros and Cons List! (Leslie Knope Style)*
  - A cost and benefit analysis of starting and maintaining a student leadership group
- *Keep It 100*
  - A review of the retention implications
- *All About That Assessment!*
  - Current and future programmatic assessment strategies
- *Hashbrown No Filter*
  - An overview of preliminary assessment results

# Challenge(s) Accepted!

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## CHALLENGES

- Large advisee case loads
- Academic under-preparedness
- Student development responsibilities
- Retention expectations
- Career readiness responsibilities
- Everything else...

## SOLUTION

- Utilize a mentor-based approach to advising practice
- Peer tutoring for in-major requirements
- Professional development opportunities
- Provides new students with an early connection to their major
- Wait, there's more!



# MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: **Advising Protocol**

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YOUR MISSION, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT

COBE Advising Initiatives include:

- sharing the experience(s)
- professional development opportunities,
- major- and career-focused exploration,
- suggesting academic success strategies, and
- establishing meaningful interpersonal relationships



COBE Ambassadors Objectives:

- To be a positive representative of the College of Business and Economics and Radford University
- To enhance professional development
- To develop excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- To provide mentoring and leadership opportunities



# ANGTFT...

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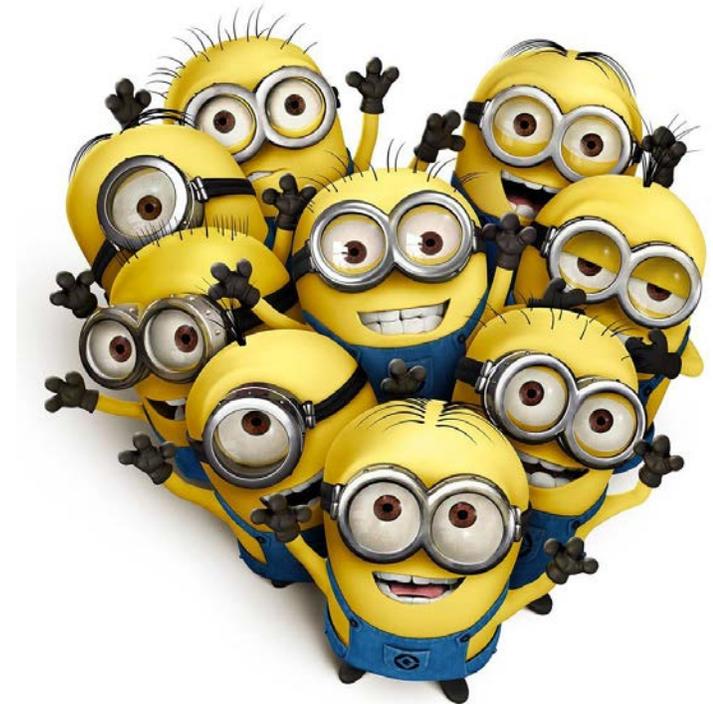
1. Draft your proposal
2. Get your approvals
3. Recruit a (very) interested and dedicated student leader
4. Hold interest meetings
5. Build your mission, vision, and draft your constitution
6. Set the expectations for members and advisors
7. Don't try to do all the things from day one!
8. *Trust the process.*
9. Make changes as you go.



# They Call Me *Gru*

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- RU Majors and Minors Fair
- Peer tutoring
- Admissions campus visit days and open houses
- Logistical support for college events
- Business & Government Career & Internship Career Fair
- Alumni and Professional guest speaker support
- Commencement
- College Majors and Minors Fair
- FYE seminar presentations
- Registration and group advising support
- Building tours





# The Pros and Cons List! (Leslie Knope Style)

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## BENEFITS (TO STUDENTS)

- Service-based leadership
- Development of communication and interpersonal skills
- Resume builder
- Relationship building opportunities
- Recognition for service
- Free polo shirt
- Dedicated website on COBE page
- Free professional headshots

## BENEFITS (TO COBE)

- High-achieving students represented at recruitment events
- Extra man-power for college events
  - reduces COBE Advising time commitments
- Increases students' motivation and sense of pride
- Networking opportunities lead to job placement
- Increases students' focus on professionalism
- Relationship building opportunities



# The Pros and Cons List! (Leslie Knope Style)

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## COSTS (TO STUDENTS)

- Time commitment
- Minimal cost to student members

## COSTS (TO COBE)

- Time commitment
- Financial responsibilities





# Keep It 100

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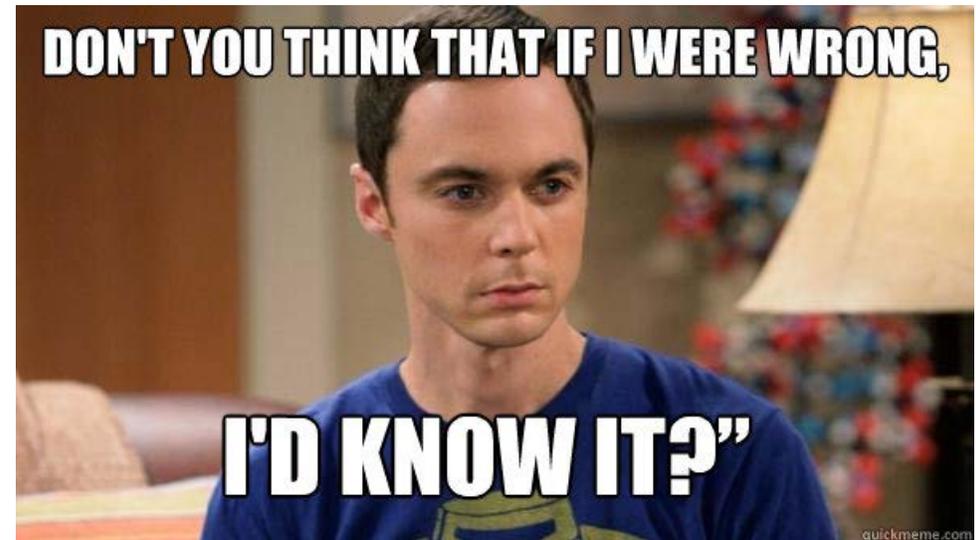
1. You gotta get 'em here
2. You gotta connect with 'em
3. You (sometimes) have to convince them to get involved
  - ...and *always* remind them of their resources (*again*)
4. You need to show 'em what success looks like
5. You need to support 'em when they struggle



# All About That Assessment!

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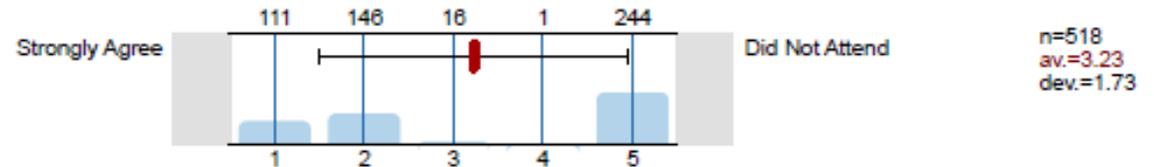
- Current assessment measures
  - Student satisfaction survey at Ambassador events
  - Visitor satisfaction survey at admissions/recruitment events
  - General advising survey
  - Survey of group members
- Future assessment measures
  - Assessing the tutoring experience
  - Correlating grades of students tutored with number of sessions
  - Expanding data collection on tutoring variables
  - UNIV 100 survey



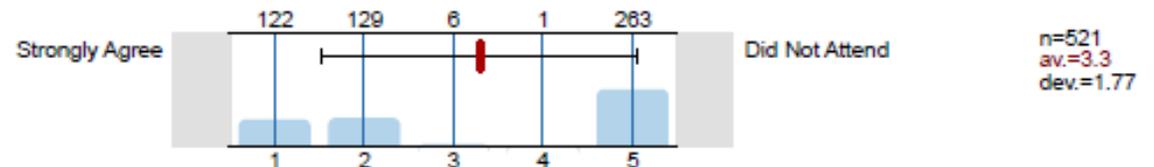
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- Results from the COBE Advising Survey:

2.9) Professional development opportunities provided by the Advising Center (resume critiques, Professionalism 101, etc.) have prepared me for my future career in business



2.10) The Experience COBE Fair was beneficial for exploring business majors/minors, student organizations, study abroad opportunities, etc.



- Start. Stop. Continue.



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1. Which of the following professional training events would you find most helpful?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	<a href="#">Mock interviews</a>		28	49%
2	<a href="#">Public speaking training</a>		15	26%
3	<a href="#">Elevator pitch</a>		4	7%
4	<a href="#">Social Media</a>		8	14%
5	<a href="#">Other</a>		2	4%
	Total		57	100%

# #MicDrop

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- The COBE Advising Center at Radford University utilizes the COBE Ambassadors to meet various needs of advisees which cannot otherwise be met during the traditional advising process.
- The COBE Ambassador program supports COBE advising initiatives in several ways.
- Going into the third year of the organization, several methods of assessment are currently used to measure program effectiveness and the potential for future assessments methods continue to be explored.



# References

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# Brace Yourselves...Students Are Coming!

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[How I Met Your Mother](#)

[Blackish](#)

[Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol](#)

[Meghan Trainor: All About That Bass](#)

[Sweet Brown](#)

[Big Bang Theory](#)

[Despicable Me](#)

[Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt](#)

[Parks and Recreation](#)

[The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon](#)

[Hunger Games](#)

[Game of Thrones](#)



## A Few More Resources

Group Development Timeline

New Group Proposal

COBE Ambassadors Constitution

[COBE Advising Website](#)

[COBE Ambassadors Website](#)

# Questions?

# Thank You!

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MAY THE ADVISING ODDS BE EVER IN YOUR FAVOR...

