Undergraduate Program Update

• Restructuring of CST Advising

• Temple University Rome

• Roadmaps

• New Programs
Restructuring of CST Advising Unit

- Beginning in May the CST advising unit will be reorganized to better serve our students.

- Advisors will be divided into three advising teams. One for first year freshmen and the other two teams will be organized by disciplines. One team will advise students in biology, chemistry, natural sciences and EES, while the other team will cover math, physics and computer sciences.

- Students will no longer be divided alphabetically into caseloads for advisors.

- This will serve to provide more directed outreach and support to our incoming freshmen in hopes of increasing retention.

- Advising by discipline for the remainder of the students, is a direct result of a student survey done by Tom Price.

- Students overwhelmingly expressed their desire to have advisors who were “experts” in the major.

- Additional changes will include the opportunity to have “same day” appointments and/or to see the first available advisor within the team.

- Advising teams will increase their interactions and communication with faculty advisors in order to provide a better experience for students seeking advise regarding research, course choices and career opportunities within the disciplines.
In October we began talks with Hilary Link, the Dean of the Rome campus, as well as the Sara Sequin from the Study Abroad Office in hopes of offering a semester abroad for CST students which would include science course offerings.

Would offer students 2 or 3 choices of courses. Currently considering Ecology, Biostatistics, Biochemistry, a Climate Change course and Contemporary Biology (a variable current topics course).

On March 30th, we held a meeting with interested students and currently have 28 students seriously considering attending. We are following up with a survey to the students to get a better sense of CST courses which they would be interested in taking while there.

Also offering students the opportunity to extend their stay into the summer by attending the Siena research program offered by Dr. Giordano.
Roadmaps Update

- Now functional for current freshmen
- Serves as a tool for students to build their academic plan based on the undergraduate bulletin.
- Can make semester by semester changes and assess their progress within their major.
- Will streamline the fly-in-four check-in process by enabling students to submit this to their advisors online.
- Will eventually be able to derive reports which could help predict the need for future course offerings and possible enrollments.
- Plan is to have all incoming Freshmen for Fall use the roadmap planning tool to build their academic plan for the first year.
New Programs

B.S. in Natural Sciences

- Complements existing B.A. degree
- Additional requirements increase depth of science content: one foundational, interdisciplinary course, and two breadth electives
- Two semesters of foreign language not required

Certificate in Environmental Professional Training

- Developed primarily for Geology and Environmental Science majors
- May also attract some engineering and continuing education students
- Provide needed job preparation skills for work in environmental consulting
- 4 credits of required coursework plus 8 credits of electives
- Required coursework includes HAZWOPER training, a mandated safety training for workers at hazardous waste sites

These programs are up for approval by the Board of Trustees on May 2, 2017