

**UTM Counseling Program
Advisory Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
12/13/2021**

Meeting began at 7:00pm with counseling faculty: David Dietrich, Tabitha Cude, Claire Dempsey, ZeVida Holman; and advisory members: Molly O'Neal (Williamson County Schools Online Academic Dean and Elementary Counseling Specialist), Sean Jones (Clinical Director, Carey Counseling Center), Hunter Stricklin (CMH Student), Deanna Barnes (SC student), Jonna White (SC graduate), Haley Duffey (CMH graduate), and Kelsey Harris (CMH student). Not able to attend: Erica Myers (Westview High School, School Counselor), Derrick Shepard (counseling faculty), Bellis May (SC graduate) and Jennifer Robinson (CMH graduate).

David Dietrich began the meeting by introducing faculty members, advisory members, and the program.

He reviewed the report attached to the end of the minutes, which was sent to all advisory members two weeks prior to the meeting and asked each of the advisory members to review the report.

David reviewed data from the report, and spoke to:

- The hiring of new faculty members
- The increase in student enrollment
- The support from the university
- The CACREP accreditation process
- Piloting 7-week courses and data from the effort
- The increase in the school counseling program from 48-hours to 60-hours (CACREP)
- The implementation of student-led support meetings and "Coffee with the Counselors" workshops held by faculty members
- The mission statement

Mission Statement:

The mission of the University of Tennessee at Martin's Master of Science in Education with a major in counseling is to prepare socially ethical and competent professionals in clinical mental health and school settings. We aspire to develop counselors who are technically skilled, personally aware, empathic, **advocacy**, accepting of the cultural and social differences of their clients or students. **The advisory members mentioned adding the word advocacy to the mission statement.**

- As a counseling faculty, we will get together and review the mission statement and add the advocacy component and send to our advisory members for review before making an official change.

To close the meeting, David asked for advisory members to ask questions or share updates:

- Molly O’Neal, partner from Williamson County school district counseling office, thanked our program for the professional development opportunities we provide the district each year.
- Sean Jones shared with the advisory members that starting July 1 community mental health centers are going to be able to use Master’s level interns, with appropriate supervision, as clinicians and offer them monetary supplementation. Statewide, there are more than 700 open counseling positions. We are uncertain as to what these potential opportunities look like at this time. The state will provide more guidance beginning in January. Sean did mention that this was his interpretation of what he was told, so we will all try to learn more about this potential program and partnership.
- Deanna Barnes shared her concern for more specialized professional development opportunities specific to school counseling, in her district and in many others.
- Multiple advisory members shared the update that there were many positions open within their school districts or counseling agencies.
- Kelsey Harris shared that she enjoys the opportunities our program provides to have more intimate interactions with faculty members and with other students, such as “Coffee with the Counselors” and residency, among other opportunities.
- Haley Duffey and Hunter Stricklin shared that they enjoyed the opportunities to network with classmates and learn more about resources within their communities. Hunter also mentioned the benefits but also potential difficulty of group work for working students. He asked that we consider the assignments and amount of time we give each group to work together.
- ZeVida Holman mentioned that it might be helpful to provide meeting dates at the start of the semester so that students know what to expect and when and have ample time to plan.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Submitted by Tabitha Cude