

2013 UPAC Co-Chair Candidate's Nomination Statements

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Cassandra Peel
CLAS AAC

Attn: Advising Community

My name is Cassandra Peel and I would like to be the next University Professional Advisors Council (UPAC) co-chair. I joined the CLAS AAC team over two months ago as an Academic Advisor, and work with students on issues such as development of their academic plan, selection of courses, progression toward their major, and navigation of academic policies. My professional areas of interest include disability services, internship development, community engagement, social justice and equity. Prior to my work as an Academic Advisor, I worked as a compliance administrator at OPARC, a large non-profit organization, a disability services coordinator at Harvey Mudd College, and a social worker in various agencies. I believe that I am a solid candidate for this position because I am dedicated, organized, have the ability to lead a broad array of constituencies, and possess the vision to enact positive change, in which advisors thrive and seek to experience continual professional growth.

Your consideration is very much appreciated and I thank you for your time.

Cassandra Peel

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Caitlin Baker
CLAS AAC

Hello UPAC members, my name is Caitlin Baker and I've been advising in the Colleges of Letters, Arts and Science (CLAS) for the last two years. My experience in CLAS has given me an excellent insight into the needs of the wide variety of students on campus and I look forward to bringing that with me as a UPAC co-chair. As a co-chair I will provide a strong sense of efficiency and organization to monthly meetings while striving to keep meeting topics relevant to the advising community. If elected, a goal I have for UPAC moving forward is to provide advisors with more opportunities for professional development and information on best practices from national resources so that we can continue to improve the quality of advising we provide to students. Thank you and I look forward to becoming more involved in the wider campus advising community.

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Russel Potter
CLAS AAC

Fellow advisors,

It is an honor to be nominated to serve the advising community as a co-chair of UPAC. I am excited for the opportunity to bring my experience to the committee, and to serve as a voice for the advising community. I am happy for the opportunity to expand what I've learned, to assist others, and to do what I can to continually improve our complex profession.

I started advising in 2009 after a career in secondary education, and I'm glad to be a part of this community. I think advising *is* teaching: we teach students how to adapt to the university, to become self-reliant, and to develop the skills to become successful. Additionally, we are expected to detect the moods and needs of students, striving to help them come to terms with their issues and addressing their emotional needs when appropriate. But mostly, advising is *complicated*. Each of us has a different cohort, with distinct differences in our student populations. I think it is important for us to understand each other, our needs, the demands on our time, and to keep the information flowing from office to office, from department to department.

I hope to be able to enhance the great communication already coming from UPAC, to help provide each individual advisor with the information necessary to do the job well, so that we can all serve our students.

Thank you for your consideration,
Russel Potter

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Jessica Kiesling
School of Family and
Consumer Sciences (CALs)

Name: Jessica Kiesling

Capacity at U of A: FSHD Pre-Major Academic Advisor, FCSC 301 & FSHD 197A Lecturer, SSC Student Worker Coordinator

Education: B.S., Agricultural Education, Iowa State University; M.S., Agricultural Education, Iowa State University

Belonging to and serving in professional organizations is very important to me. Professional organizations link us to each other, and to the great pool of resources that exist: our colleagues, our ideas, and programs. Involvement keeps our information relevant, timely, and buoys our spirits during those long weeks of priority registration with a community who 'gets it'.

As UPAC co-chair, I want to focus on advisor engagement that extends beyond the monthly meeting. As a first-year advisor, I participated in a Friday tour of Study Abroad, allowing me to network with fellow new advisors while expanding my knowledge to guide students through the Study Abroad process. Serving on a Transfer Task Force committee allowed me to understand the complicated, behind-the-scenes journey to move a student from 'admitted' to 'matriculated' – and identify ways to make this easier, seamless, and more intuitive – for students and advisors. Attending end-of-the-year events, Open Houses like the Honors College hosted last May, and the Pima-UA mini-conference, allow us to engage, expand knowledge, and get out of our office. J Providing more opportunities like these will be my priority as co-chair.

As a UPAC co-chair, I bring years of experience in organizational leadership, efficient (and enthusiastic) meeting management, consensus building, and program development and implementation. For eight years, I advised low-income, first-generation (to attend college), middle and high school students regarding the college planning process through the TRIO Educational Talent Search Program at ISU. During these 8 years, I was very active in our professional organization, Iowa MAEOPP. I served on our executive board as secretary, president, and past-president, in addition to holding various committee chair positions. The highlights of my involvement include: implementing a student leadership event focused on leadership and political advocacy; effectively uniting the TRIO community (alumni, parents, and staff) as advocates; planning effective, productive, and relevant professional development events.

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Michael Greeley
School of Government and
Public Policy
(SBS)

Hello Fellow Colleagues! I would appreciate the opportunity to serve as a UPAC co-chair. During my seven years as an advisor in the School of Government and Public Policy I have had the pleasure of working with many talented students and colleagues throughout the university. I consider the U of A a special place with a strong advising community, and I believe the work we do is paramount to the success of undergraduates and the universities' strategic plan of 100 percent engagement.

If elected as a UPAC co-chair, I would focus on accomplishing three main goals. First, I would continue to foster an environment that harnesses knowledge and wisdom from our advising community. Since my time as an advisor, UPAC has been an excellent resource and a great place to share ideas. Our current UPAC co-chairs have done a great job and want to make sure that this tradition continues. Second, I believe that professional development is an important part of being an advisor, and there is usually limited time devoted to it. We are all very busy, and our time is important. With this in mind, I want to make sure that every UPAC meeting has a professional development component. Lastly, I want to improve our overall internet and university presence. We need to continue to market what we do and be strategic regarding the future of UPAC. By working with ARC and other partners on campus, we can build a refocused online presence that will help UPAC to continue to advance for the foreseeable future. Thanks for reading and I appreciate your vote! Also, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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