DATE: July 14, 2020
FROM: Eric J. Barron
TO: Elizabeth M. Seymour

I have reviewed the Advisory/Consultative report, Enhancing Academic Advising Across Penn State, that was passed by the University Faculty Senate at its April 28, 2020 meeting. I agree with the importance of academic advising in ensuring student success and of promoting identified learning outcomes derived from students’ active engagement with academic advising.

I concur with the three recommendations advanced in the report, namely that:

1. A committee, or committees, of the Senate should be designated to work with the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs to review and consider any needed changes in existing processes to give appropriate recognition to the faculty role in advising, especially as related to its quality and substance;

2. The Office of the Provost should work with the college and campus leadership to assure resources are in place for the delivery of robust academic advising, consistent with encouraging positive and effective advising relationships with all students; and

3. The Office of Undergraduate Education and the Office of the Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses should, in collaboration with a designated University Faculty Senate committee, review current advising structures and networks and the means for coordinating and supporting academic advising across the University.

cc: Kathleen J. Bieschke
    Dawn Blasko
    Madlyn L. Hanes
    Nicholas P. Jones
    Robert N. Pangborn