

Pastoral Care or Programme Advice? The Student Advising Process

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What is it about?

This paper is based on recent research, “Navigating the System” which explores how students decide what to study, and how the University of Otago provides guidance for students making these decisions. In particular it examined the process of advising from the student perspective.

Why is it important?

There are concerns both nationally and internationally with student advising and the ways in which institutions help and support students as they navigate their way through the complex tertiary system (eg. Deloitte 2004; Gardiner 1998). Increased student and institutional complexity in New Zealand, especially since the early 1990s, has placed growing emphasis on the advising process. Students have become a much more diverse population and they are paying more, with less financial support, for an ever-increasing ‘pick ‘n mix’ of papers to choose from (Grigg et al. 2004). What sort of advice and support are students receiving, and is it adequate/good enough?

How the session will be run:

In this paper we will present some of our research findings from the Navigating the System study. We will explore a range of themes around the meaning of student advising. Participants will be invited to discuss and comment on each of these themes as we seek to develop new ideas about this area of research.

References

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