To: UCSF School of Nursing Faculty Council Meeting  
From: Maria Lourdes “Malou” Bayog, Nursing Student Representative  

Re: Advising

1. There doesn’t seem to be a standard on advising: although individualized attention to each student may be the ideal, and that students are adult learners, it seems guidelines are needed. Jane Hirsh noted that she’d look at the faculty handbook for what it says about advising.

Some examples of topics are:

   a. Amount and length of meetings in a quarter between the student and their advisor. Although it’s not necessary to handhold students, there have been complaints that advisors are unavailable when the student has a problem.

   b. Goal-setting for the student’s academic trajectory: some students are unclear of what is needed by a certain timeline. For Masters students, they are surprised to find out that comps are due in April, PhD students aren’t sure when to take what class and which trajectory they should be following. Some students have their academic timeline planned; some don’t realize that they need to have one.

   c. When to take classes in case the student is unable to follow the recommended/required class schedule. Not all advisors know what is the minimum requirement and which classes take credit for the requirements of the school (e.g. different classes can be taken to satisfy the cultural competency requirement in the Masters program. Students may not have to take the class written in their specialty curriculum).

2. How does a student break off a student/advisor relationship without “burning a bridge? Besides other students, whom does the student turn to for advice about getting a new advisor?

3. Who does the student go to in order to hold their advisor accountable? I know that it is to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, which is Dr. Martin-Holland, but students may not be comfortable in telling her and talking about their advisor.