

# **The Rubenstein Student Advisory Board**

## **Advising Survey**

### **Spring 2016**

#### **Background and Summary:**

At the end of the Fall 2015 semester, we sent out this survey in order to receive feedback regarding the undergraduate advising experience. In total we received ninety-three responses out of the approximately 600 undergraduates in RSENR.

#### **Recommendations:**

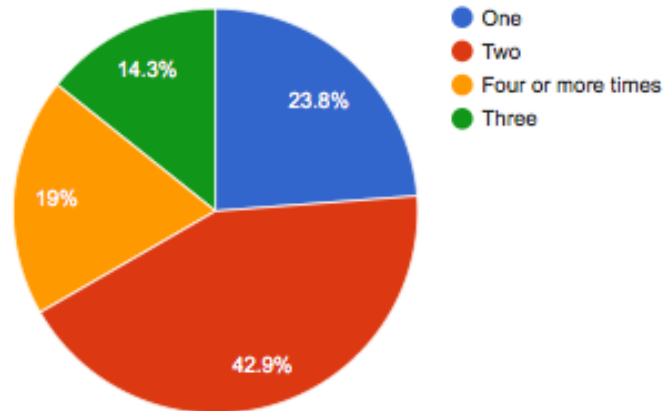
- 1) Having more up to date information and resources on the RSENR website regarding each of the majors and concentrations.
- 2) Having the past syllabi up on the RSENR website for courses offered by RSENR.
- 3) In determining future advisors, ensure that advisors have the time and knowledge to meet with their advisees.

#### **Environmental Studies:**

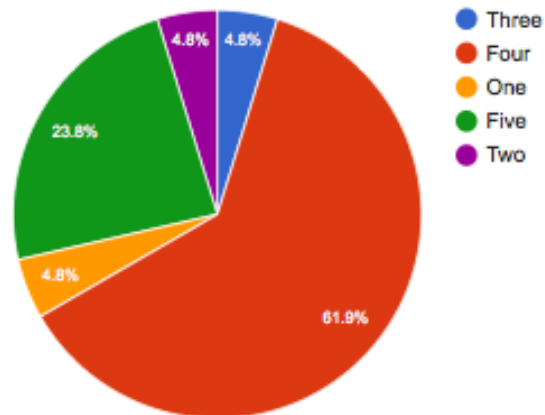
Total Responses: Twenty-five

Twenty-one meet with their academic advisor and four did not.

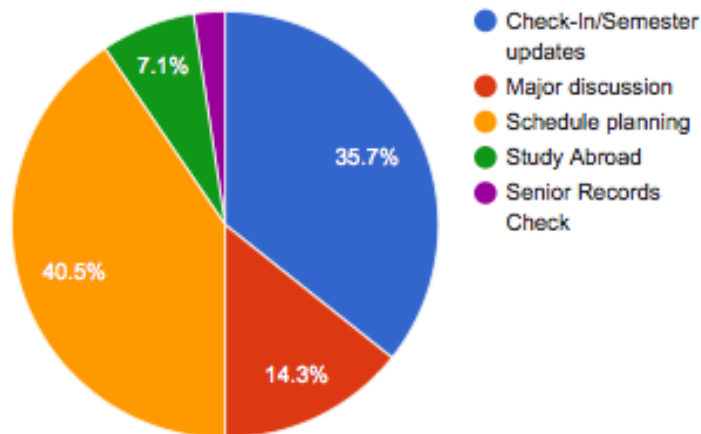
**How many times did you meet with your advisor?**



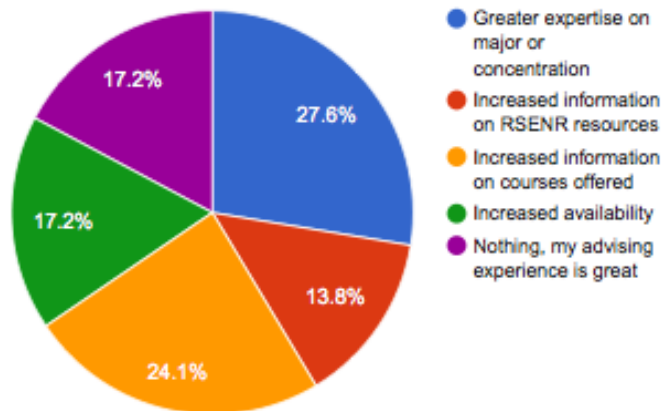
**On a scale of one to five, how helpful was your advising experience?**



### Why did you go to your advisor this semester?



### If anything, what could improve your advising experience?



The four who did not meet with their advisor did not meet with them because:

- “My advisor was new and didn't know anything about graduating protocols, which was what i needed help with.”
- Scheduling conflicts.
- ENVS Drop-in advising

Comments:

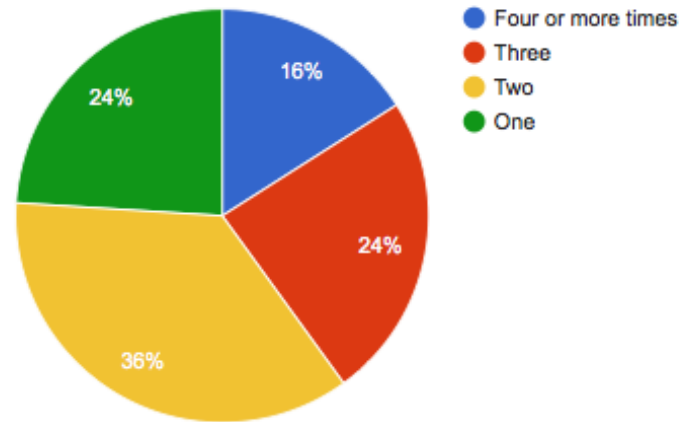
- "I am a transfer students and I have still not been assigned an actual advisor and have just been meeting with Ibit from the environmental program."
- "Although I did not have a great experience with my own advisor, I did meet with other faculty in the Bittersweet who were very helpful."
- "Cecilia Danks was incredibly helpful and generous with her time."
- "My advisor was extremely under-informed about courses. Class registration process was very confusing."
- "Being sure to match students with particular concentrations with appropriate advisors."
- "Gary Hawley is an awesome adviser!"
- "I usually don't meet with my assigned advisor; instead I meet with Ibit Wright or Amy Seidl in the ENVS department."
- "My old advisor retired. I was sad that I didn't have anyone who was knowledgeable enough to talk to this semester."

**Environmental Science:**

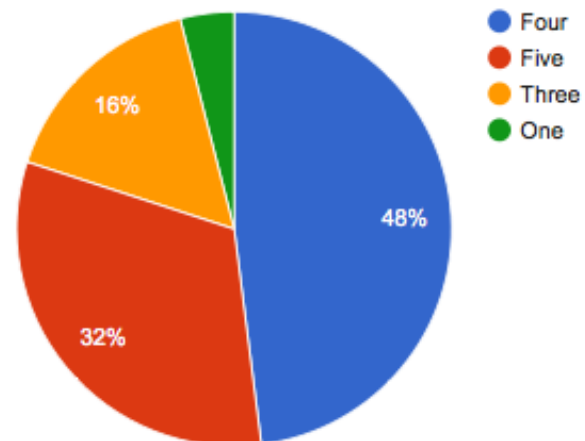
Total Responses: Twenty-seven

Twenty-five meet with their advisors and two did not.

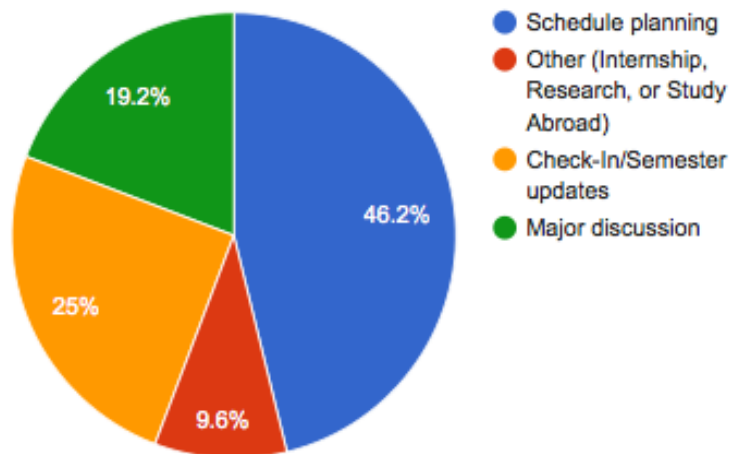
**How many times did you meet with your advisor?**



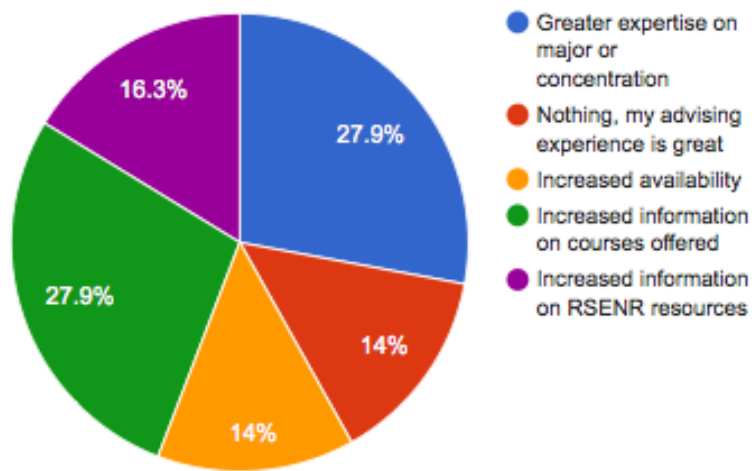
**On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the most helpful, how helpful was your advising experience?**



### Why did you go to your advisor this semester?



### If anything, what could improve your advising experience?



The two who didn't meet with their advisor did not meet with them because:

- Scheduling conflicts
- "I did not have a reason to meet with my advisor"

Comments:

- “Overall my advising experience at RSENR has been good! The only comment I have is updating the website so it shows classes that are actually being offered. I have a concentration in conservation biology, and when I look at the website to see what classes I can take, several of them aren't being offered anymore. And one class I took counted toward my concentration on my CATS report but wasn't listed on the website a class I could take for my concentration. Other than keeping the website updated, advising for me has been great!”
- “Deane Wang - He's the man!”
- “I ended up not getting into a course and I had to find another course last minute to fill the spot. My advisor was very helpful and helped me find a cool course! “
- “Overall very helpful and available. We have a great relationship.”
- “Professor Ginger was not helpful as an advisor.”
- “I love my advisor. Jen Pontius goes above and beyond what is expected when it comes to helping me with academic advice and honestly with anything else I need advice on. I had two other advisors before her (I was in CAS for my first year and a half) and they didn't even know who I was. My experience in RSENR has been night and day from CAS. I wouldn't have made it this far in school without Jen.”
- “I have never found advising particularly useful, and have always ended up figuring things out on my own.”

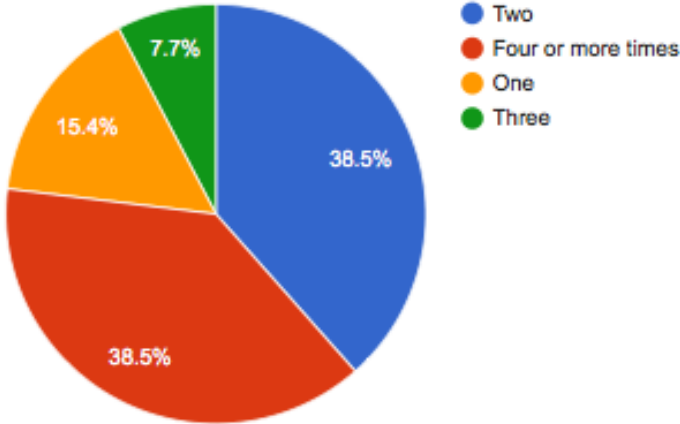
### **Wildlife and Fisheries Biology:**

Total Resources: Fourteen.

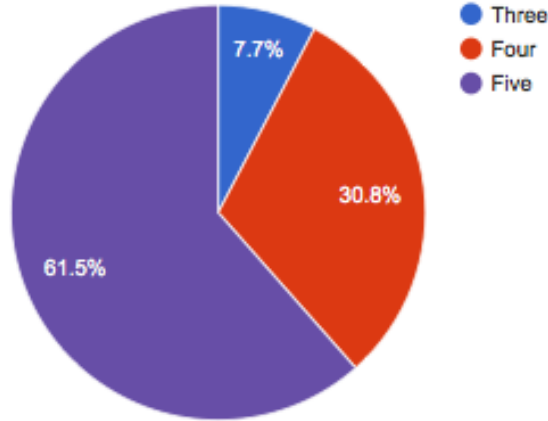
Thirteen meet with their academic advisor and one did not.



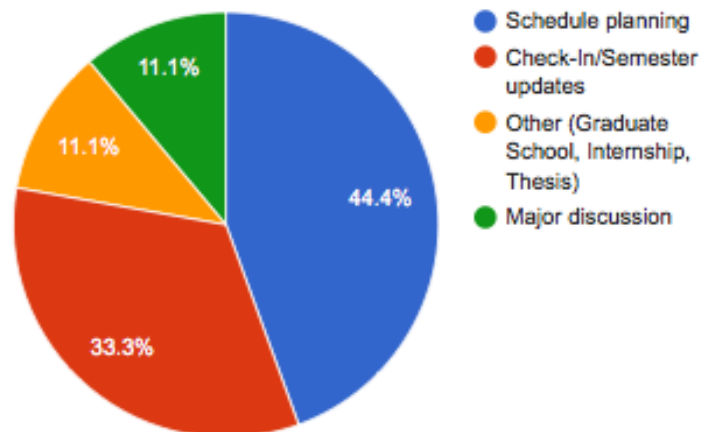
**How many times did you meet with your advisor?**



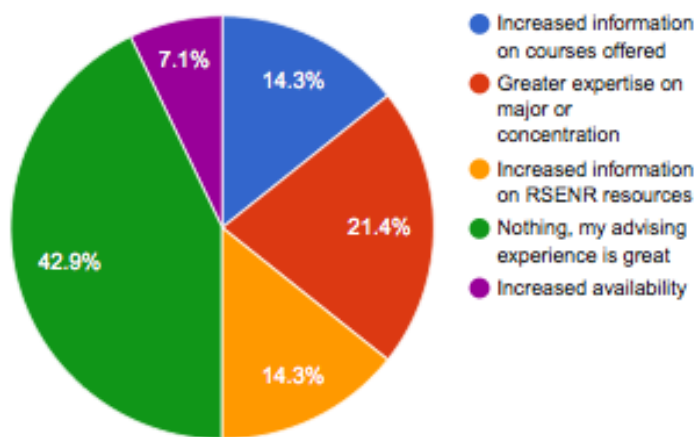
**On a scale of one to five, how helpful was your advising experience?**



### Why did you go to your advisor this semester?



### If anything, what could improve your advising experience?



The individual who did not meet with did not meet with them because:

- Meet with another faculty member since advisor is on sabbatical.

Comments:

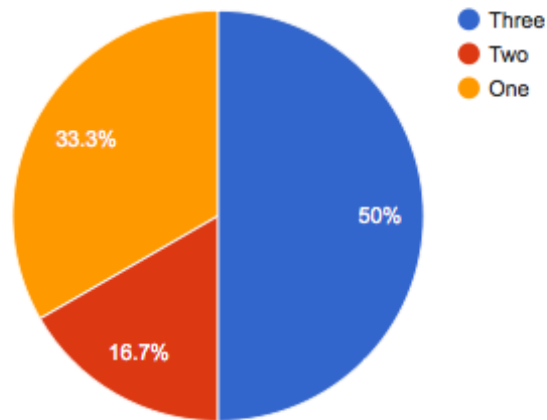
- “The core curriculum really needs serious work. Students are under stimulated and frustrated by the core classes. This is unrelated to advising but far more important to improving students' experience in the Rubenstein School.”
- “Jen Pontius is a great advisor!”
- “More knowledge of requirements for my major and Rubenstein's requirements would be helpful.”
- “Ellen Marsden is an amazing advisor “
- “Students whose advisors are on sabbatical should be able to choose an alternative advisor instead of being assigned a stranger.”

### **Natural Resources:**

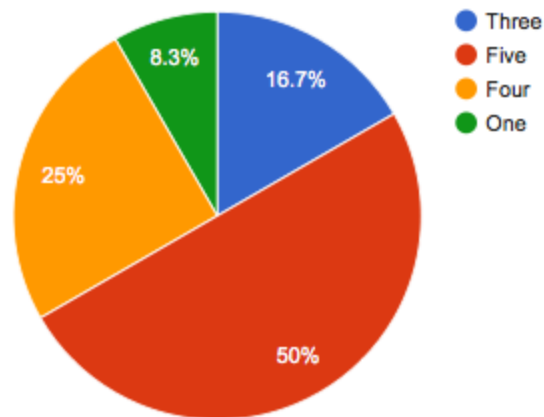
Total Resources: Twelve

All twelve respondents meet with their academic advisor.

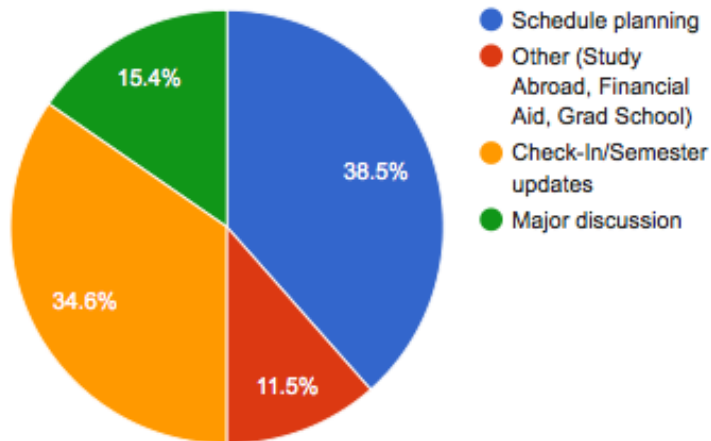
**How many times did you meet with your advisor?**



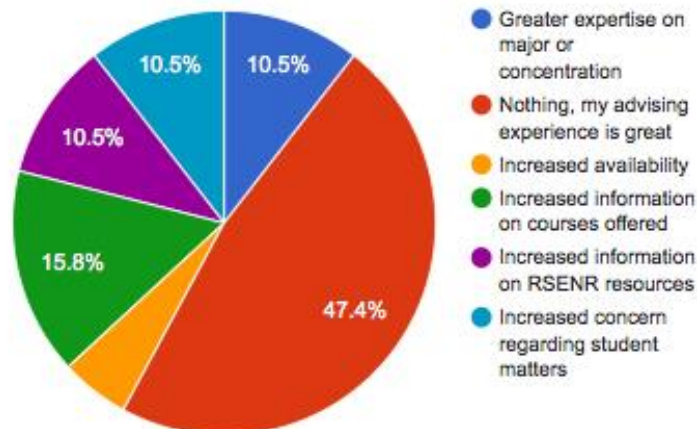
**On a scale of one to five with five being the most helpful, how helpful was your advising experience?**



### Why did you go to your advisor this semester?



### If anything, what could improve your advising experience?



#### Comments:

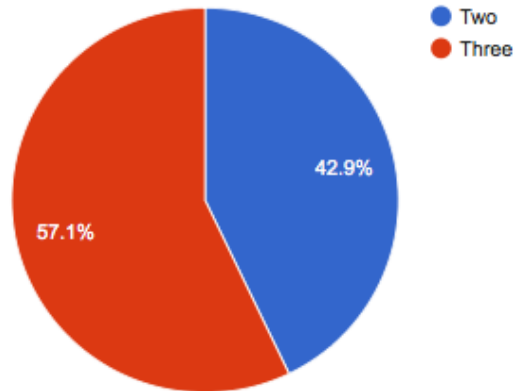
- “Chair of the department was a lot more helpful than my advisor was.”
- “Clare is literally perfect.”
- “Clare Ginger is the best!”
- “I’m glad that we are able to meet with professors who may not be our official advisor, and they are still willing to help.”

## *Forestry*

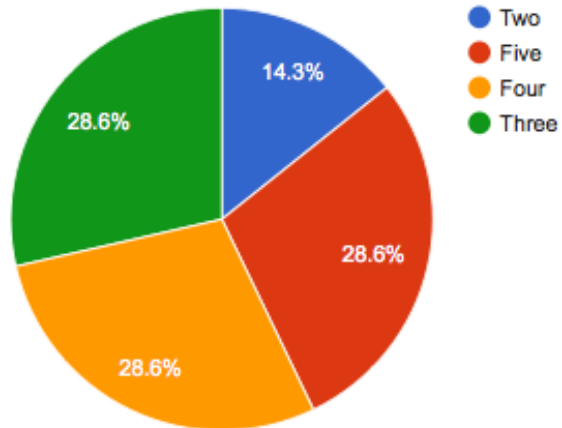
**Total Responses: Seven**

**All seven respondents meet with their academic advisor.**

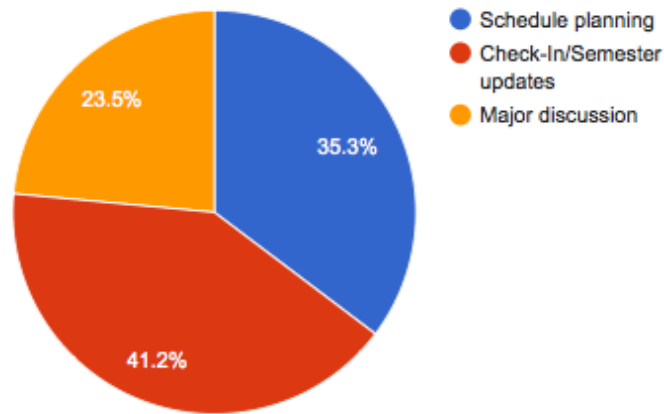
**How many times did you meet with your advisor?**



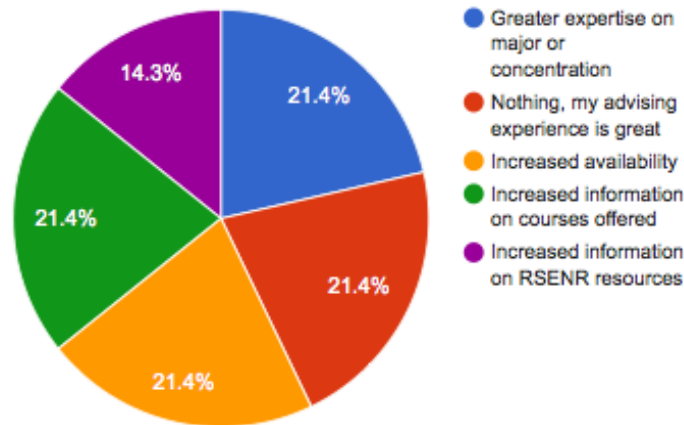
**On a scale of one to five with five being the most helpful, how helpful was your advising experience?**



### Why did you go to your advisor this semester?



### If anything, what could improve your advising experience?



#### Comments:

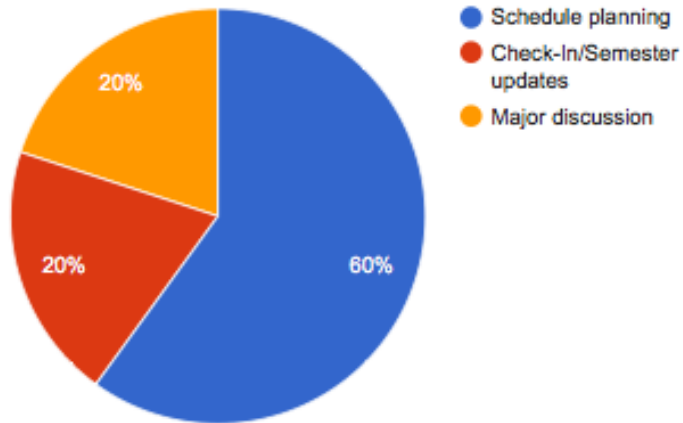
- “There was a serious amount of miscommunication about RSENR requirements between the administration and my advisor. The administration also failed to explain to my advisor how to remove 'advisor holds' from myUVM portal, or that they existed in the first place. It's also really difficult to meet with my advisor because he is so busy.

### *Parks and Recreation Tourism*

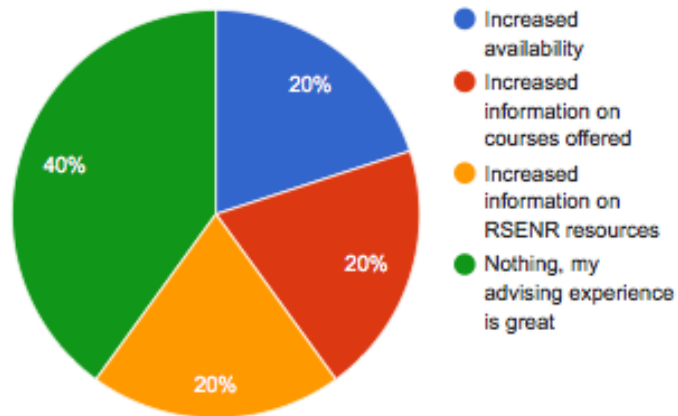
Total Resources: Three

All three respondents meet with their academic advisor twice.

### Why did you go to your advisor this semester?



### If anything, what could improve your advising experience?





Comments: None.

**If anything, what could improve your advising experience?**

