

Year 1 Public Description of Work for
Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

Harvard University

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences - Advising Project

This Action Applies to Rubric Item(s): #3 and #21

Description of Work:

Launched in November 2019 by Emma Dench, Dean of Harvard University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) and McLean Professor of Ancient and Modern History and of the Classics, the Advising Project is an in-depth initiative focused on improving the advising experience of master's and PhD students at GSAS. Over the course of two years, the Project will evaluate and celebrate what constitutes effective advising, develop best practices, and disseminate information about how students, faculty, and other partners can work together to enhance the advising experience with an eye to effecting lasting institutional change.

Consistent with the NASEM recommendations of *"leadership and skill development"* as well as *"reducing power differentials,"* in its first year, the Project will gather feedback from those whose experience touches advising, including students, faculty, alumni, and administrators, asking: What do we know about the current state of graduate student advising at Harvard? What does effective advising look like? What gets in the way of effective advising and how can we make it the norm? Is advising more expansive than is traditionally understood, encompassing support from faculty mentors, departmental and GSAS administrative partners, peers, and more senior graduate students? Using the information gathered from these conversations, the Project will then determine how to disseminate the lessons learned and the resources available to students, in the process ensuring that effective advising becomes the norm through all GSAS programs.

Website for further information: gsas.harvard.edu/academics/advising-project

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