The September Advising Brown Bag focused on the Early Alert System Exchange. After a brief overview of how and why to submit an alert by Allison Farrell, co-chair of the EASE initiative, Professor Monica Sylvia offered her feedback as a user of the system. This lively discussion yielded the following questions and answers. Some of these questions may be ones you too faced when deciding to submit an alert.

1. Is it necessary to input the students' ID numbers on the form as it asks for them?

If you have the student's number available it is helpful. However, the ID is not necessary to submit the form.

2. Do we need to use the online forms, is it possible to just make a call and share concerns in that manner?

Although submitting the request through the online form is desired as it provides a "paper trail", it is not necessary. For academic concerns, please contact Barbara Stevenson in the advising office at 445-4597. If you feel a student is struggling with non-academic issues, then feel free to contact Nina Bette in the Student Development office at 445-4525 to help get things started in the EASE process.

3. What is the time it takes for a response to an alert?

Most alerts have an initial response time within 24 hours.

4. How active are the advisors in the process? How active should they be?

Students' advisors are notified as each alert is sent out. The purpose is to raise the advisor's awareness to the fact that one of their students is having some kind of struggle. While we would encourage your support in reaching out to these students there is no set action required on the part of the advisor. This action is really is up to the individual advisor and indicated by the type of relationship the advisor has with the student. If the advisor's additional help is necessary you would be contacted in another way to ask you to join the effort on the student's behalf.

5. Is follow-up from the faculty expected?

The faculty who sends the alert will be copied on the outreach to the student. This way a faculty member can be aware of what is taking place. At times the team will reach out to the individual who submitted the alert to check in on the student to see if the issue has been resolved. However, any further action by the alerting faculty is not required.

6. How many alerts do you typically get and are the majority of the alerts academic?

Last year approximately 250 students were identified through EASE, some with multiple referrals. At this point the majority of these in nature are due to academic concerns. The student of concern online referral was just introduced last fall and there were a number of those types of alerts but the most common alert is still academic in nature.