



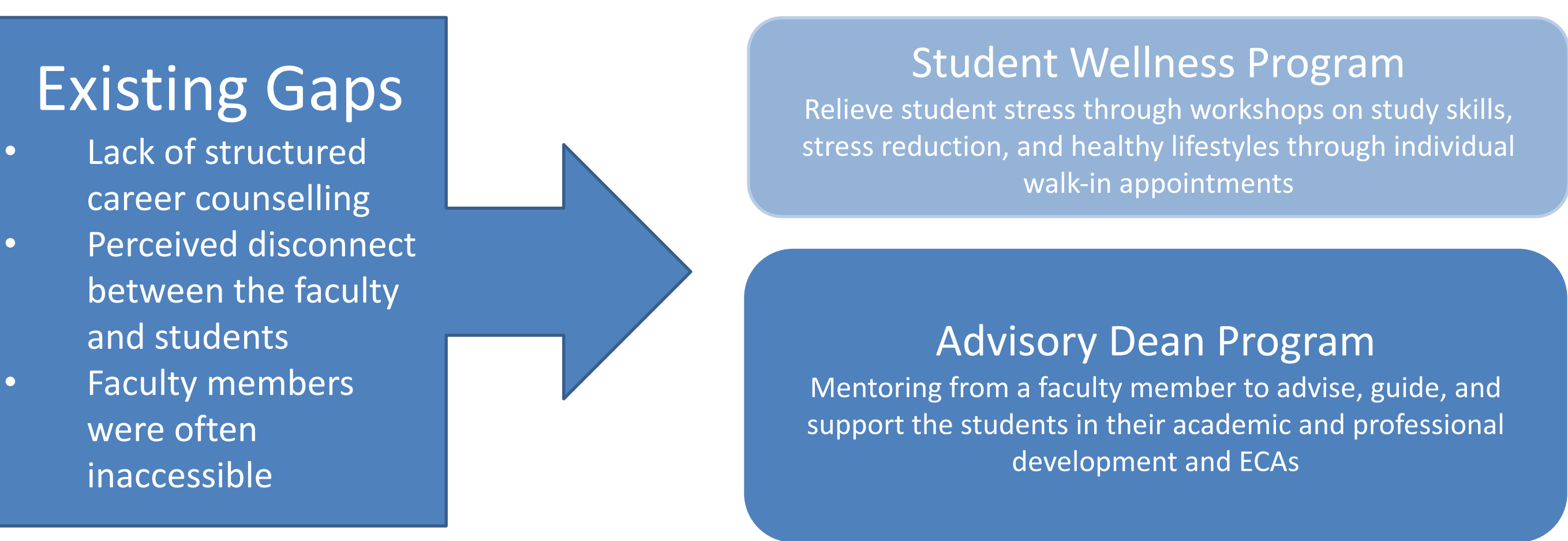
The Advisory Dean Program: A Personalized Approach to Academic and Career Advising for Medical Students

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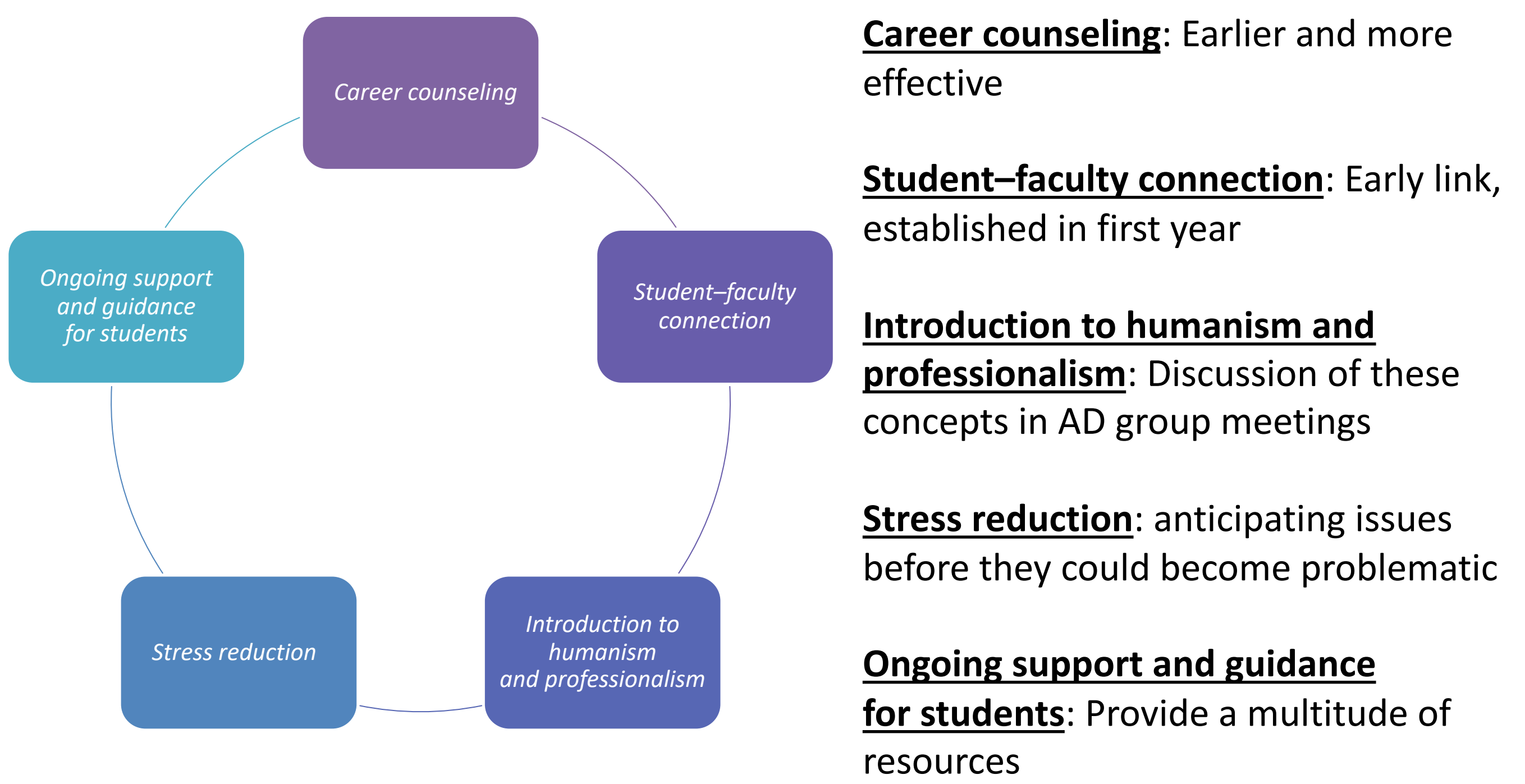
Abstract

Prior to 2003, the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, utilized faculty volunteers in its advising system. Catalyzed by negative student feedback on career advising and perceived faculty-student disconnection, in the 2003-2004 AY, the **Advisory Dean Program** was launched. Advisory Deans (AD) and Dean for Student Affairs formed the nexus of the program, providing *personalized* mentoring and advising for each student. The program showed early success based on the feedback of the Class of 2006, who were involved in the program for three years, Out of 152 students, 104 (68%) responded, with 93 (89%) reporting that program was *valuable*.

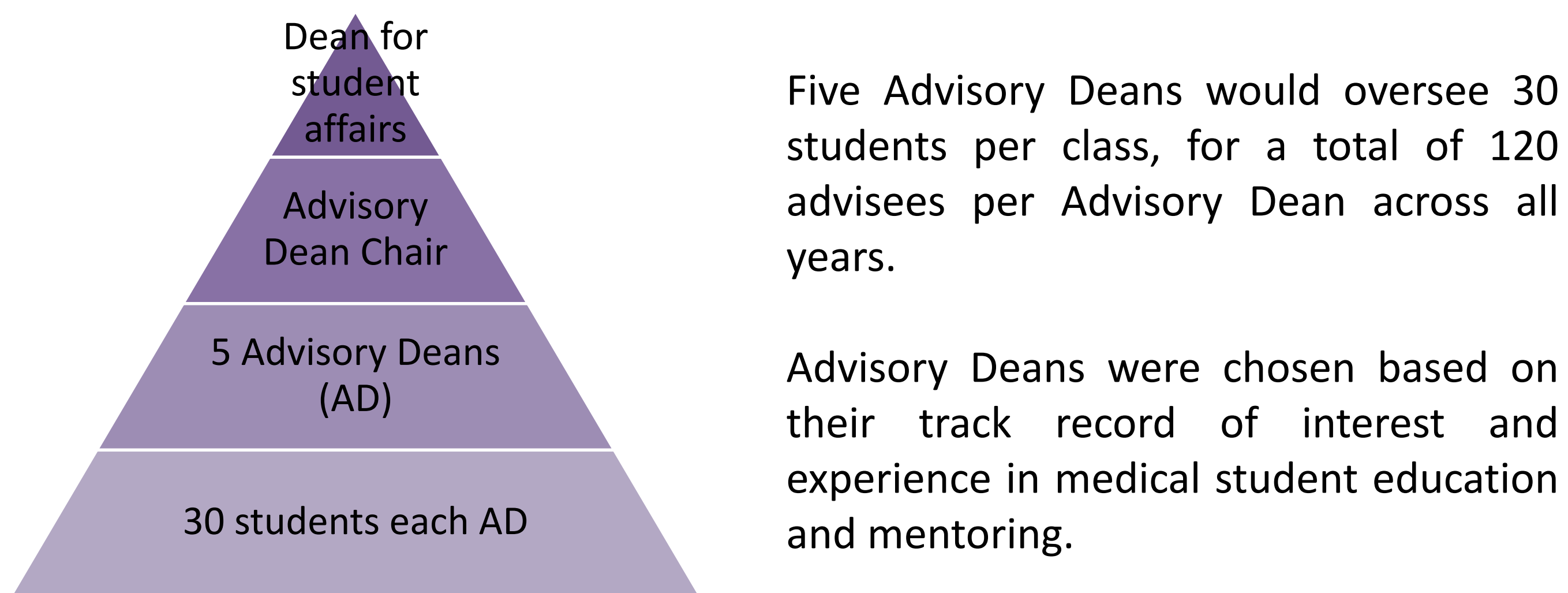
Background



Program Goals



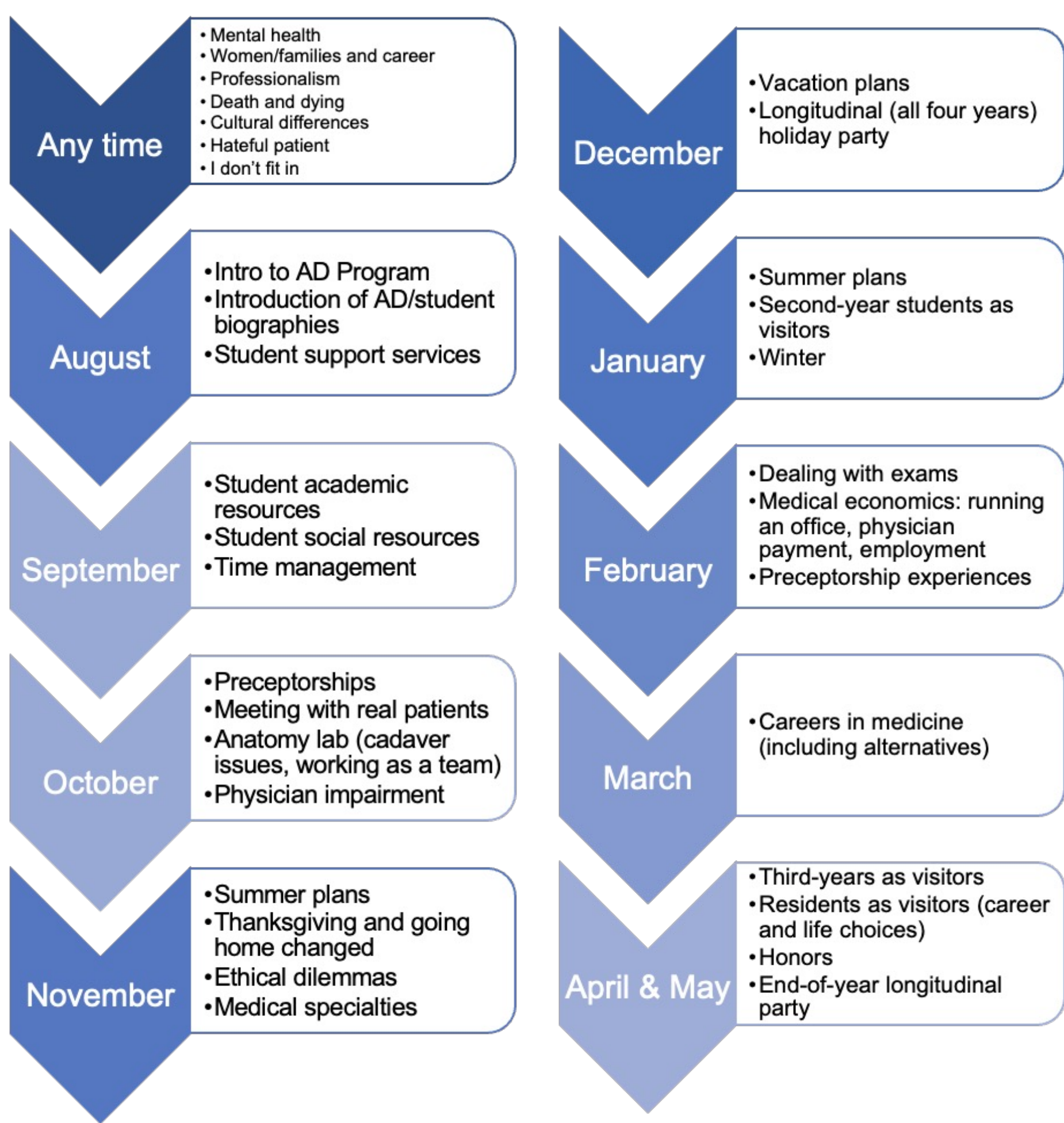
Program Structure



Advisory Deans met their students every week in the September of Year 1, and once biweekly thereafter till the end of Year 2, typically for lunch. Third-year students had evening meetings once every two clinical rotations (every 10 weeks).

The Advisory Deans, the Advisory Dean Chair, and the Dean for Student Affairs would meet for one hour every two weeks to continually develop and standardize the program.

Scope of Topics for Discussion

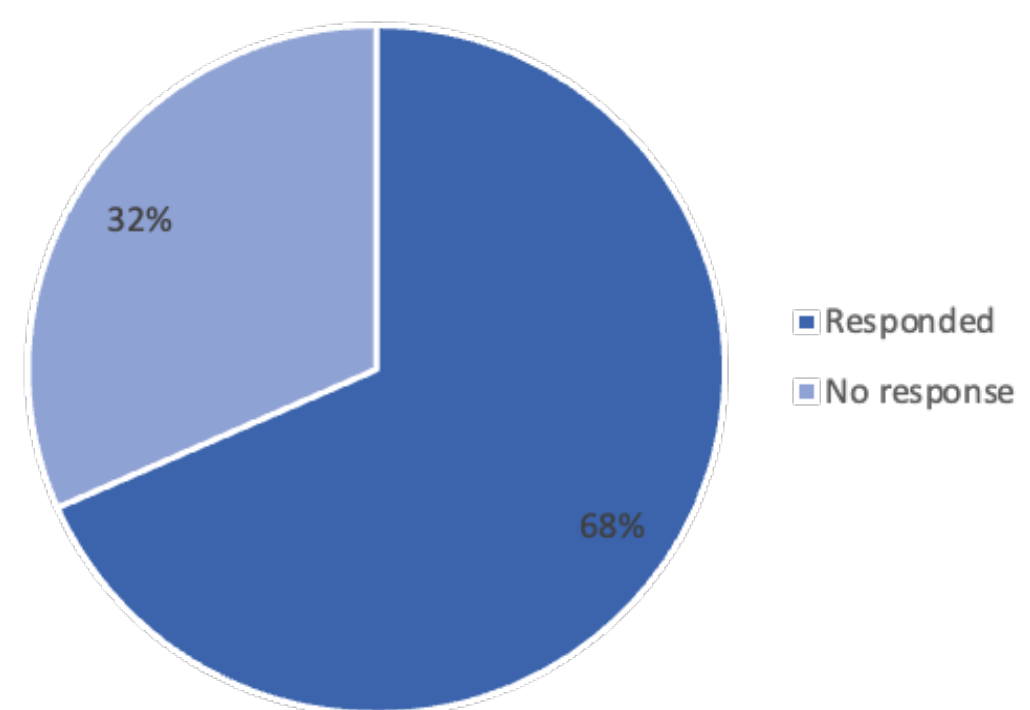


Assessing success of the program – Methods

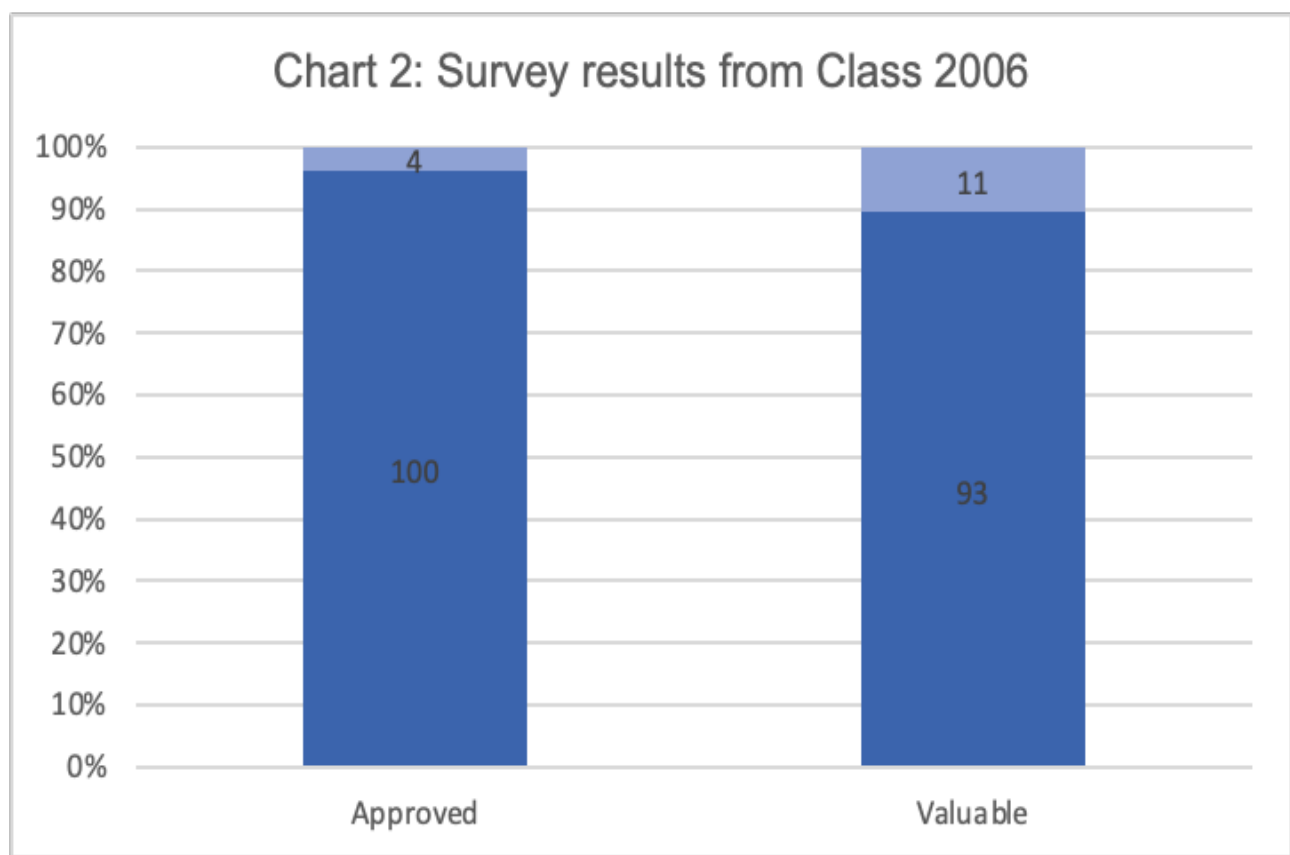
A survey was distributed in early 2006 to Class of 2006 students who had been involved in the AD Program for three years.

Out of the 152 students; 104 students responded, for a response rate of 68%)

Chart 1: Student from class 2006 surveyed



Assessing success of the program – Results



100 out of 104 respondents (96%) gave the AD program an approval rating

93 out of 104 respondents (89%) reported the AD program as valuable

Conclusion

The program has succeeded in addressing the initial gaps identified in the original mentoring program.

Further Research Areas

Potential further area for research would be to assess the reproducibility of the efficacy of the Advisory Dean program in other institutions.

