

ABSTRACT

The study entitled, “Characteristics of Desirable Advisors: A Case Study of North-Chiang Mai University,” is aimed to take as study samplings all-year students, who are studying at North-Chiang Mai University, totaling 820. The sampling units are taken from all students by 79.79 percent of the total.

Results of the study revealed that most respondents are males, aged 19-25 years old; they are first-year undergraduate students, studying in the Faculty of Engineering with a major in Electric Engineering; their average income is less than 2,000 baht a month. So they got the Student Loans Fund for their studies. However, most of them received scholarship funds from the University. Regarding the opinions toward advisors, the students expressed their opinions on the advices concerning academic, self-adjustment in society, activities and occupations at medium level (2.93 points in average). The students are satisfied with the characteristics of desirable advisors at medium level (3.13 points in average). With regard to advisors’ morality, ethics and etiquette, fundamental knowledge and ability conducive to students’ benefits, knowledge and competency in giving advices, the students are satisfied at medium level (3.12 points in average).

The students’ problems and obstacles in asking for advices from advisors are mostly concerned with timetable for students to meet their advisors. Usually, the students hardly know the time to meet their advisors; professors have a limited time for students and are not in the room; they left the University after the class. In view of their university workload, advisors have to do a variety of works at the same time, thereby the students cannot meet them or advisors have no time to give advice to students. Regarding their workload outside the university, advisors and faculty staff often times go to attend a training or seminar in other provinces, which is difficult for students to meet them because they are busy doing many jobs. Additionally, university professors should follow up students’ performance regularly. In respect of suggestions for solution, the advisor or professor should provide students with telephone number so that the students can reach them if necessary. Group meeting should be organized once a week or every month in order to give students some

advices and appointments. The faculty staff should put timetable on the door of their room; it might be easy for students to meet their advisors.

With regard to academic advice, the faculty staffs had no time to advise their advisees and at times the teacher could not answer the question. Therefore, the teacher and student meeting should be held every semester prior to examination in order to discuss about the study. More technical knowledge according to curriculum should be emphasized for application; advisors should be interested in students' problems and try to find solve them. The teaching staffs should also be aware of students' learning problems and provide them with more teaching and learning technologies so that they can learn better than they do now.

As regards advice on students' activities and careers, the teaching staffs gave advice very little. The students' requirements are as follows: The usefulness of activities arrangement should be shown to students with emphasis on occupations, and there should be an external study tour and career counseling prior to their graduation. Engineering activity should be held more than this since it has so far been very limited. Involving suggestions on social manners, advisors should tell students how to adapt to a particular society they will belong to, basing on personal experiences and emphasizing engineering and technical areas. The students are confined to university campus only; they have no opportunity to associate with external world.

As for other suggestions, the students added that the university should attentively take care of them, not giving responsibility to only their advisors. Besides, the university should promote more student activities worthy of tuition fees they paid, and should accept all of their complaints for consideration. The teaching timetable is too tight; it should be re-arranged. The faculty staffs should initiate new teaching methods so that the students will be alert and gain more knowledge. And with a view to university personnel, their manners should be improved and good human relations with students emphasized. Especially, the Faculty of Engineering should provide its students with opportunity to have study tour outside the university.