

## **Interview Schedule for Academic Advisors**

### **Introduction**

- Brief introduction of the interviewer and the purpose of the study.
- Assure confidentiality and anonymity of responses.
- Obtain consent for recording the interview.

### **Section 1: Background and Experience**

1. How has your background enabled you to pursue a career as an academic advisor?
2. What training or experiences have been instrumental in enabling and/or constraining your capabilities as an academic advisor?

### **Section 2: Academic Advising Practices**

3. How do your day-to-day responsibilities as an academic advisor in the EBIT department enable student success?
4. What proactive outreach and engagement strategies do you employ to enable effective communication with students?
5. What methods do you use to monitor and support students' academic progress, and how do these enable their success?

### **Section 3: Challenges and Opportunities**

6. What are the primary challenges that constrain your role as an academic advisor in South Africa's higher education landscape?
7. How do socio-economic and political factors in South Africa constrain or enable your academic advising practices?
8. Are there specific challenges that constrain your effectiveness with students in engineering programmes?

### **Section 4: Socio-Ecological Influences**

9. How do microsystemic factors both enable and constrain your advising practices?
10. In what ways do meso-level organisational structures within the engineering department enable or constrain your role?
11. What exo- or macrosystemic factors (like university policies or broader societal trends) impact your work, either enabling or constraining?

### **Section 5: Professional Well-being and Development**

12. How does your professional well-being and job satisfaction enable you to perform effectively in your current role?

13. What types of professional development opportunities do you believe are crucial for enabling the growth of academic advisors?
14. Can you discuss any discrepancies between your personal beliefs about advising and institutional expectations that may constrain or enable your practice?

### **Section 6: Future Perspectives and Recommendations**

15. What changes or improvements would enable the field of academic advising in South Africa to evolve?
16. In your view, how can academic advising be optimised to better enable student success in engineering programmes?

### **Conclusion**

- Thank the interviewee for their time and insights.
- Inform them about the next steps and how the information will be used.
- Provide contact information for any follow-up questions or clarifications.