

112th Student Senate of the University of South Carolina

Sponsored by Senator Windsor

A RECOMMENDATION -TO-

STANDARDIZE A STUDENT SURVEY AFTER EVERY ACADEMIC ADVISING APPOINTMENT

WHEREAS, excellence in advising was part of former President Pastides' Carolina 2025 plan and he announced in 2015 that advising is an institutional priority; and

WHEREAS, even though academic advising is not a goal stated in the Strategic Plan, excellent and equitable advising would help accomplish Strategic Priority #1 to “retain and graduate high-achieving students” and to “provide a student -centric educational experience to all students” ; and

WHEREAS, academic advising is a requirement for every student at the University of South Carolina in order to register for classes. Advising is the only required and structured service on campus that involves one on one contact with a concerned representative of the institution; and

WHEREAS, academic advising is the single most powerful predictor of satisfaction within a campus environment for students at four year schools; and

WHEREAS, undergraduate students have regularly recognized inequitable advising experiences across all colleges and schools. It is the goal of the university and University Advising Center (UAC) to promote equity and excellence in academic advising; and

WHEREAS, the central goal for the UAC is standardization in academic advising, so that all students have the opportunity for enhanced and equitable advising experiences;

WHEREAS, the University Advising Center conducts university wide surveys to receive overarching feedback about the advising process, but not specific to each college, school, department, or academic program; and

WHEREAS, a more specific survey would provide more comprehensive feedback about each advisor and advising experience. Students would then be able to help shape the future of advising models and practices in their program. Advisors would also know about their strengths and areas to improve; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RECOMMENDED by the 112th Student Senate

THAT, each advisor across every college, school, or academic program send a simple feedback survey to assess student satisfaction and the student's remaining questions or comments; and

THAT, this survey has uniform questions across all of campus in order to have university wide metrics for advisors. There should also be questions unique to that area of study or academic program; and

THAT, survey reports are created and published online in order to provide transparency about that program's advising experiences. Any areas of improvement or challenges should be addressed by and worked on with the University Advising Center and that department's group of advisors, dean, and other related faculty or staff; and

THAT, student advisory boards, program ambassadors, or other representative student bodies should help organize this data and assess ways that this student feedback translates into tangible changes within the advising model at their program; and

THAT, by conducting such surveys and working towards understanding advising improvements and challenges over time, a more excellent, standardized, and equitable advising model becomes an overarching institutional priority and goal.

BE IT FURTHER RECOMMENDED that upon passage copies are to be sent to the Board of Trustees; Robert L. Caslen Jr., University President; Dr. Dennis Pruitt, Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; Dr. Anna Edwards, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. William Tate, University Provost; Dr. Sandra Kelly, University Vice Provost; Dr. Mark Cooper, Faculty Senate Chair; Dr. Claire Robinson, Director of University Advising Center; Dr. Joel Samuels, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Peter Brews, Dean of the Moore School of Business; Dr. Jon Pederson, Dean of College of Education; Dr. Hossein Haj-Hariri, Dean of Engineering and Computing; Dr. Matt Brown, Interim Dean of Hospitality, Retail and Sports Management; Dr. William Hubbard, Dean of School of Law; Dr. Tom Reichert, Dean of Information and Communications; Dr. Tayloe Harding, Dean of School of Music; Dr. Jeannette Andrews, Dean of College of Nursing; Dr. G. Thomas Chandler, Dean of Norman J. Arnold of Public Health; Dr. Ronald Pitner, Interim Dean of College of Social Work; Dr. Cherly Addy, Dean of Graduate School; Dr. Steven Lynn, Dean of South Carolina Honors College; Issy Rushton, Student Body President; and The Daily Gamecock.

JD Jacobus, Speaker of the Student Senate

Date