A BILL
To reform the current advising and registration practices at East Carolina University and to ensure graduation success

Primary Sponsor: Senator Aaron Heft
Cosponsor(s):
First Reading: 09/29/2014
Referred to: University Affairs; Rules and Judiciary
Second Reading: 10/06/2014

Be it enacted by the Undergraduate Senate of the East Carolina University Student Government Association,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This bill may be cited as the Advising Reform and Graduation Success Act

SECTION 2. ADVISING REFORM AND GRADUATION SUCCESS

WHEREAS, academic advising is a necessary part of a quality higher educational experience that assists students in making integral decisions about their education; and,

WHEREAS, low timely graduation rates have been a longstanding problem for ECU that negatively impacts ECU student success, rankings, and public funding; and,

WHEREAS, delayed graduation is often caused by enrollment mistakes and other misinformed decisions made by students that could easily be avoided by making sure students see their advisors regularly; and,

WHEREAS, to ensure students do not make such mistakes, some higher education institutions have already taken the initiative to place advising stops at various intervals in their academic careers, such as when students have earned specific numbers of hours; and,

WHEREAS, there is no mechanism in place to record students’ feedback on their experiences with academic advising, or to collect quantitative data on the efficiency of academic advising; and,
WHEREAS, course offerings, degree plans, policies, and other useful information are often difficult to find on the websites of colleges and departments, and advising sessions will be more efficient and effective if academic information and resources are more readily accessible; and,

WHEREAS, advising offices do not consistently keep track of topics discussed during previous advising sessions or other types of potentially useful information about students; and,

WHEREAS, the current number of advisors in many ECU programs is inadequate to offer quality assistance to students; and,

WHEREAS, efficient and effective advising fosters undergraduate students success by educating students to make informed choices about their academic, professional, and personal goals; and,

WHEREAS, such choices can have a critical impact on a student’s successes, as well as public perception of the quality and prestige of ECU academic programs; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 2014/15 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION UNDERGRADUATE SENATE AT EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

THAT: over the next five (5) years, ECU will reduce the student-advisor ratio to levels that meet the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) standards in the advising offices of all individual colleges and other programs that engage in student advising, starting with those that fall furthest short of NACADA standards; and be it further

ENACTED, that mandatory advising holds be placed on all ECU undergraduate students’ records at 30, 30 and 90 hours, as well as at any time a student is given probationary status in his or her respective college; and be it further

ENACTED, that the University and each college will create a post-advising survey to be answered by students in order to collect data on the content, quality, efficiency, and productivity of academic advising. Students will be required to take this survey after all mandatory advising sessions, and encouraged to take the survey after non-mandatory sessions; and be it further

ENACTED, that all advising offices across campus will maintain profiles on all students for the purposes of collecting data at the university level. These profiles will contain information on students’ progress including but not limited to past advising sessions, academic and professional goals, possible concerns; and be it further

ENACTED, that ECU will increase the quantity, quality, and accessibility of useful information relevant to advising by ensuring that pertinent websites have complete information, up-to-date documents, answers to frequently asked questions on all
college websites. This important information would include, but should not be limited to:

- accurate course descriptions on Banner and in all course catalogs;
- up-to-date degree plans;
- information on tutoring services and workshops, academic/professional student organizations, and other resources available to help students succeed; and
- advice for future career opportunities, including research, employment, and graduate school;

and be it further

ENACTED, a copy of this bill shall be sent to Student Body President Michael King, Dr. Steve Ballard, Chancellor, Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Virginia Hardy, Dean of Students Dr. Lynn Roeder, and Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Ronald Mitchelson.

SECTION 3. DATE EFFECTIVE.

This Act shall be effective upon its passage by two-thirds (2/3) of the ECU SGA Undergraduate senate.

Respectfully introduced by Senator Aaron Heft

September 29th, 2014