

**Label: SGAB - 51004**

**Date Introduced: July 23, 2014**

**Author(s): Joshua Freed, Academic Affairs Chair Sen. Clint Kirchhoff, Sen. Enrique Martinez, Charlotte Christian**

**Sponsors: Sen. Geordie Daniel, Sen. Hugo Salinas, Sen. Tatiana Lutomski, Sen. Sarah Aimad, Sen. Clement Agho-Otoghile, Sen. Sunil Motwani, Sen. Will Fischer, Sen. Max Ballands**

**Committee: Academic Affairs**

### **Advising Reform and Graduation Success Act**

**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 UH that negatively impacts UH 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 UH colleges 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 efficacy 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 UH programs is inadequate to offer quality assistance to students; and

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

#### **HOUSTON'S CARNEGIE-DESIGNATED TIER ONE PUBLIC RESEARCH UNIVERSITY**

**Whereas**, such choices can have a critical impact on a student's successes, as well as public perception of the quality and prestige of UH academic programs.

**THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the 51<sup>st</sup> Administration of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:**

That over the next five years, UH will reduce the student-advisor ratio to levels that meet 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.

**Further be it enacted**, that mandatory advising holds be placed on all UH undergraduate students records at 30, 60, and 90 hours, as well as at any time a student is given probationary status in his or her respective college.

**Further be it 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.


**Further be it 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 student's progress including but not limited to past advising sessions, academic and professional goals, possible concerns.

**Finally be it enacted**, that UH 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, and simple means for students to schedule advising appointments across all college websites. This important information would include, but is not limited to:

- accurate course descriptions on myUH;
- up-to-date degree plans;
- lists of courses that satisfy degree requirements;
- 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.



Shaun Smith  
Speaker of the Senate  
University of Houston



Charles Haston  
Student Body President  
University of Houston