

111th Student Senate of the University of South Carolina

Sponsored by Senator Windsor

A RECOMMENDATION

-TO-

PROVIDE ALL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ACCURATE AND UPDATED ONLINE DEGREE AUDITS

WHEREAS, not every school and college at the University of South Carolina Columbia are equally utilizing or promoting Degree Works as a curriculum auditing resource for students to be able to view their updated degree progress. This poses a challenge for undergraduate students to prepare for their advising appointments and to create their academic plans; and

WHEREAS, the majority of undergraduate students report that they use degree works to prepare for their advising appointments and the majority strongly agreed that they used it multiple times to monitor their progress towards graduation; and

WHEREAS, despite strong evidence of students' use of degree works, students have reported that their degree works audits are not accurate. Students have also been told in some colleges to ignore Degree Works; and

WHEREAS, Degree Works degree audit is successfully used by students and advisors at the University of Florida, University of Texas, University of Alabama, University of Georgia, University of Kentucky, Texas A&M, and Clemson – all universities with large student populations and a large, diverse number of degree programs such as the University of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, interactive degree programs allow students to more clearly understand and monitor their academic paths. In addition, accurate degree audits enable to students to run “What-if” scenarios to better understand requirements when changing majors; and

WHEREAS, colleges and schools at UofSC, such as the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sports Marketing and the College of Education, report that their students heavily rely on degree works and have more successful advising appointments because their college updates their academic audits and monitors its accuracy and use thoroughly; and

WHEREAS, accurate degree work audits are necessary to monitor academic fulfillments and requirements of specific student populations such as student athletes, federal aid or scholarship recipients, and veteran benefit recipients. Without accurate degree work audits by colleges and schools, students may be at risk of not fulfilling certain academic requirements; and

WHEREAS, every student should be granted the right to access and monitor an updated report of their academic progress, which then best prepares students for their advising appointments and class registration periods. As a result, advising sessions may be more time efficient and valuable for both the advisors and students.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RECOMMENDED by the 111th Student Senate

THAT, all colleges and schools be required to utilize degree works technologies so that all undergraduate students are provided accurate and updated online degree audits. Students should not be limited to paper files, major check sheets, and/or college specific homegrown audits; and

THAT, all colleges and schools adopt a more uniform and accountable form of auditing and monitoring a student's academic progress, so that students can always access their online audits, updated academic information, and more easily change or adapt their degree plans.

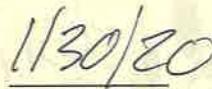
THAT, students be required to view or at least be informed of the University Advising Center's videos on how to use degree works technologies during freshman orientation and first year advising sessions; and

THAT, every student should be granted the right to access and monitor an updated report of their academic progress, which then best prepares students for their advising appointments and class registration periods. As a result, advising sessions may be more time efficient and valuable for both the advisors and students.

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, Dean of Students; Dr. Anna Edwards, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Lacy K. Ford, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Peter Brews, Dean of the Moore School of Business; Jon Pederson, Dean of College of Education; Hossein Haj-Hariri, Dean of Engineering and Computing; Haemoon Oh, Dean of Hospitality, Retail, and Sports Management; Tom Reichert, Dean of Information and Communications; Andrew Gowan, Interim Dean of School of Music; Jeannette Andrews, Dean of College of Nursing; G. Thomas Chandler, Dean of Norman J. Arnold of Public Health; Sarah Gehlert, Dean of College of Social Work; Steven Lynn, Dean of South Carolina Honors College; Luke Rankin, Student Body President; The Daily Gamecock; University Advising Network Members, the Degree Works Planner Subcommittee Members.



Davis Latham, Speaker of the Student Senate



Date