

Senate of College Councils Policy Briefing

S.R. 1105 – In Support of Developing a Comprehensive Degree Planner

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BACKGROUND

- The Degree Audit Policy Joint Application and Development Group (DAP-JAD) was formed to evaluate the effectiveness of the interactive degree audit tool. Of the eleven features the Degree-Planner subcommittee recommended be included in the IDA tool, Senate recognized three of highest priority: visual scheduling, a four-year plan feature, and a measurement of degree process.

PURPOSE

- To specify the features Senate has identified as important for inclusion in the IDA tool

SUMMARY

- Senate has identified three features that are crucial to the improvement of the IDA system
- Senate supports the inclusion of these three features in the IDA system
- These improvements would help ease the strain on academic advisors and indirectly help increase four-year graduation rates

WHEREAS SUMMARY

Lines 6-25

In the interest of improving four-year graduation rates through the betterment of academic advising, a goal of the Commission of 125, the Office of the Registrar has formed the Degree Audit Policy Joint Application and Development Group (DAP-JAD). DAP-JAD is tasked with designing a degree audit tool to improve academic advising and four-year graduation rates throughout the college.

Senate Appointed three students to sit on the committee alongside faculty and administrators to offer suggestions. The Degree Planner subcommittee of DAP-JAD issued recommendations that highlighted eleven features they believe should be included in the design of the IDA tool.

The Senate of College Councils conducted a non-scientific survey of senate representatives and college council members to determine which features they found most important. Three features were identified: visual course scheduling, a four-year plan feature, and a measurement of degree

process.

The Senate of College supports the current efforts of the registrars office to improve the IDA tool, and suggests that the following features be included in the design of the tool:

The IDA should support multiple degree plans, hypothetical combinations of majors and minors, and certificate program and flag requirements

The IDA should include a degree process methodology

The IDA should include a flow chart feature that explains pre-requisite and the course that fulfill them

The IDA should include a four-year degree planning feature

Resolved SUMMARY

Lines 76-82

This IDA tool should be publicized to incoming freshmen during orientation. A comprehensive degree planner is key to improving four-year graduation rates as well as the academic experience of students at UTAustin.

SENT TO

Shelby Stanfield, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Registrar;
Dan Knauft, Associate Registrar;
the members of DAP-JAD.

NEXT STEPS IF PASSED

➤ Present the legislation to DAP-JAD and schedule a follow-up meeting with the registrar's office

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