

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

SS-S21-7, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Advocating for a Collaborative Advising Structure

Legislative History:

On May 10, 2021 the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Senator Sullivan-Green from the floor of the Senate.

Sense of the Senate Resolution

Advocating for a Collaborative Advising Structure

- Whereas: Advising of students is critical to their academic success at SJSU; and
- Whereas: Academic advising at San José State University is governed by university policy S89-10: *Undergraduate Academic Advisement; Advising*, introduced by the Instruction and Research Committee, now the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee, and signed by the university President; and
- Whereas: University Policy S89-10 states “One of the most important relationships between students and faculty is that which develops during the cooperative planning of an academic degree program.” It further recognizes that “the coordination, delivery, and evaluation of advising shall be a shared responsibility;” and
- Whereas: Academic advising has been shown to help integrate students with the academic institution, faculty advising for freshmen and sophomores provides a critical opportunity to connect incoming students with faculty mentors, to lessen the fear of seeking support, to build a more inclusive community atmosphere, and to provide a sustained and continuous supportive relationship throughout a student's undergraduate years ^[1]; and
- Whereas: In April 2019, the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Consultant and Speaker Services reviewed the SJSU academic advising program, with a final report shared with the greater campus community in August 2019; and
- Whereas: SJSU was noted to be highly dedicated to improving the academic advising process, passionate about student success among many stakeholders, having strong college success centers that are respected sources of information for

¹ Drake, Jayne K. "The role of academic advising in student retention and persistence." *About Campus* 16.3 (2011): 8-12. Retrieved from: [https://advising.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/jaynearticle\(3\).pdf](https://advising.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/jaynearticle(3).pdf)

students, and having strong program directors for special population advising; and

Whereas: The NACADA Report identified, among other challenges, a lack of integration between professional advisors and faculty advisors (p. 8), a distressing inconsistency among advisors in terms of the directions and information shared with students, and confusion about the definition and importance of academic advising (p.9); and

Whereas: Since the report was published in August 2019, the university has:

- Established an Academic Advising Steering Committee with stakeholders from across the campus advising community
- Created 'Undergraduate Academic Advising Vision, Mission, & Core Values', as well as 'SJSU Advisor and Student Expectations and Responsibilities' statements
- Held regular Advising Summits to provide opportunities for professional development and discussion of advising topics for the campus advising community
- Developed an online onboarding course for new advisors, and an online Spartan Advisors Professional Development Academy
- Conducted surveys of advisors and students to gather feedback on advising at SJSU; therefore, be it

Resolved: That SJSU does not make changes to the advising process and structure until all key stakeholders are consulted, including students, faculty advisors, departments, colleges, success centers, and staff advisors; and be it

Resolved: That the Academic Senate urges the university to continue to support a mixed model of advising that formally utilizes both faculty and staff advisors throughout the student's academic career; and be it

Resolved: Advising is governed by a university policy, brought through the Instruction & Student Affairs Committee, therefore advising changes should not be made until an updated policy is presented to the senate and approved by the President in 2021.

Financial impact: University resources will be required to support the advising initiatives already in place and for those planned.

Workload impact: Additional advising support from faculty and staff will be required. The university is already in the process of hiring additional advising staff.