

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1225**

**TITLE: Resolution Calling for More Specialized and Knowledgeable Engineering Departmental Advisors**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Jonathan Bedine, Senator Max Banach**

**SPONSOR(S): Epsilon Lambda Chi President Hannah Baradon, Senator Jordan Gebaide**

**WHEREAS**, the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering has over 11,000 total enrolled students, including over 7000 undergraduate students, making it the second largest college behind only the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences [1][2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, engineering degrees range from 128-131 required credits, almost a full semester course load more than the 120 required for most other degrees found in other colleges such as CLAS, CALS, and Business; and,

**WHEREAS**, the difficult, lock-step, and credit-intensive nature of these majors make advising uniquely critical for Engineering majors as it is particularly easy to fall behind and become “off-track” in your major; and,

**WHEREAS**, many of the current engineering advisors have no background within the field of engineering or any other related STEM field and thus may lack direct knowledge on the field, major, and coursework they are meant to advise about, making it difficult to provide adequate support to students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the complexity and rapid advancements in engineering fields necessitate advisors with up-to-date knowledge of industry trends, technological innovations, and emerging career pathways; and,

**WHEREAS**, engineering students often require guidance on specialized topics such as professional licensure, internship opportunities, and research experiences, which may not be adequately addressed by advisors lacking relevant expertise; and,

**WHEREAS**, some engineering majors such as Civil, Computer, and Electrical have over 500 enrolled students, yet only one dedicated advisor, giving students no options in pursuing a full-time advisor [2][3]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need for more specialized departmental advisors for engineering students; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate calls on the administration to employ a greater number of advisors with direct knowledge and experience in the fields and majors which they are advising students on; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recommends the establishment of a formalized training program for engineering advisors, incorporating ongoing professional development opportunities to enhance their understanding of engineering curricula, career pathways, and student support strategies; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate urges Wertheim College and each Engineering Department's administration to collaborate with current engineering advising staff and faculty to create an advising system that can provide engineering majors with adequate knowledge and resources regarding their courseload, research opportunities, and professional prospects.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Interim Provost J. Scott Angle, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Interim Dean Forrest Master, Ph.D., P.E., Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Associate Dean for Student Affairs Pamela Dickrell, Ph.D., Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Toshi Nishida, Ph.D., Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Director of Advising Janna Underhill, Ph.D., Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Director, Student Development and First Year Advising Deborah Mayhew, NCC, Ed.S.*

[1] <https://www.eng.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/09-2023-HWCOE-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

[2] <https://ir.aa.ufl.edu/facts/enrollment/>

[3] <https://www.eng.ufl.edu/students/advising/who-is-my-advisor/students-in-second-year-or-above/>



3/21/24

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Monish Vijayaraghavan  
Senate President

Date