

MINUTES
EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
August 18, 2000

Members Present: David Williams, William Barstow, John Dagley, Timothy Denny, Dan DerVartanian, Denise Mewborn, Sylvia Pannell, Rick Tarleton, Ann Crowther

Guests: Richard Rose - Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Tom Brown - 1999/2000 EAC member, Larry Dendy - University Communications, Stephen Jones & Justin Rubner - Red & Black, Takagi Nozom - Student

David Williams, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

The minutes of the March 24, 2000 Educational Affairs Committee meeting were approved.

Dr. Crowther opened the floor for nominations for the 2000/2001 Chair of the Educational Affairs Committee. Dr. David Williams was nominated to serve a second term as Chair and elected by a unanimous vote.

Dr. Rick Rose, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs presented information on the University's Withdrawal Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines. The information clarifies the existing policy and will be distributed to students and others who inquire about withdrawing from a class or the University. The members agreed to forward the material to the Executive Committee of University Council for information only.

Next, the members reviewed proposed changes to the University System of Georgia's Independent Study appeal process. Currently students enrolled in Independent Study courses who wish to request a change or registration date or those who are ineligible yet seek permission to register for a course or courses with resident credit, must appeal to the Educational Affairs Petitions Subcommittee. Dr. Nancy Thompson, Department Head of the USGIS proposed that these two types of appeals be directed to the Independent Study Appeals Committee. If the appeal is denied by that committee, the student may appeal the decision to the Educational Affairs Committee. This proposal was unanimously approved to be effective immediately.

Dr. Williams introduced the next agenda item, the Annual Report on Academic Honesty. The report included the steps taken by the OVPI to educate the University community about academic honesty, a list of dishonesty charges and outcomes for the academic year, and recommendations for changes to the existing policy. Dr. Williams with assistance from Dr. Crowther, Assistant Vice President for Instruction, identified the following four primary difficulties with the current policy:

1. Substantial delays in the process are related to the investigation phase
2. Difficulties in scheduling hearings due to the number of people involved in each case
3. The severity of the current penalties which has resulted in more attorney involvement
4. The current policy does nothing to encourage faculty to be involved in the educational process of developing a culture of honesty.

Dr. Williams presented Sub-Attachment B of the Report to the committee for consideration. The members discussed the issue of academic integrity at length. Issues such as the need to educate the faculty about the University's academic honesty policy, legal implications for allowing a faculty and student discussion prior to a formal hearing, suggestions or examples for appropriate sanctions for honesty violations, and methods to have a meaningful commitment to the University's Student Honor Code were discussed.

The members voted to forward Sub-Attachment B of the Report to the Executive Committee of University Council for consideration by the full Council with the following revisions:

1. Sanctions considered by the Faculty/Student will be University Sanctions with examples provided prior to the meeting.
2. Students will be given a 5-day right of rescission as opposed to 3 days.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The Educational Affairs Committee will meet again on October 20, 2000 at 2:00 in Room 105 Old College.