



The University of Georgia

Office of the Vice President for Instruction

EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – 2016-2017

Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Chair

(also representing Forestry and Natural Resources)

Arts and Sciences - Dr. Barbara Biesecker (Arts)

Dr. Mark Farmer (Sciences)

Dr. Steven Lewis (Sciences)

Business – Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

Environment and Design – Mr. David Spooner

(also representing Public Health, Social Work, and Ecology)

Family and Consumer Sciences - Dr. Andy Carswell

Journalism and Mass Communication – Dr. Jeong-Yeob Han

Public and International Affairs – Dr. Andy Owsiak

Veterinary Medicine – Dr. Shannon Holmes, absent

(also representing Pharmacy, Law, and Engineering)

Provost's Representative – Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

Undergraduate Student Representative – Mr. Jacob Fucetola

Graduate/Professional Student Representative – Ms. Ashley Fallaize

Guests: Dr. Russell Mumper Mr. Lee Shearer

Dr. Jan Hathcote Ms. Sara Wood

Mr. Michael Snell

The Educational Affairs Committee met on August 24, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes of the March 28, 2016, meeting were distributed. The committee requested that the minutes be sent to the 2015-2016 Educational Affairs Committee members for consideration and approval. Subsequent to the meeting, the minutes were distributed to the members of the 2015-2016 Educational Affairs Committee and were approved by email vote.

The meeting opened with introductions. Dr. Williams-Woodward introduced herself as the new chair of the committee and welcomed new members.

Dr. Williams-Woodward updated the committee on the results of the four Petition Subcommittee meetings held since the last Educational Affairs Committee meeting. On April 25, 2016, 30 appeals were reviewed, 20 were approved, and 10 were denied. On June 20, 2016, 74 appeals were reviewed, 38 were approved, and 36 were denied. On July 18, 2016, 26 appeals were reviewed, 14 were approved, and 12 were denied. On August 18, 2016, 18 appeals were reviewed, 9 were approved, and 9 were denied. A sign-up sheet for members to volunteer to attend Petitions Subcommittee meetings was sent around.

The committee discussed the 2017-2018 Academic Calendar approved at the March 28, 2016, Educational Affairs Committee meeting and later at the May 3, 2016, University Council meeting. Concerns have been raised about the earlier start date of classes possibly interfering with internships, training, and classes taken over the summer months. Several professors reported a higher than average number of students missing the first two days of classes this semester, which also started on a Thursday. The vice president of the Student Government Association also presented a

resolution from the Student Government Association requesting and supporting an adjustment in the 2017-2018 Academic Calendar.

The Registrar, Dr. Jan Hathcote, explained to the committee how the calendar was created, pointing out holidays, financial aid deadlines, grade deadlines, Reading Day, the federal requirement for classes to meet for 15 weeks, and the Board of Regents requirement of 750 contact minutes for each credit hour. There was active discussion about the various ways the calendar could be revised. The committee voted to create an Academic Calendar Subcommittee, with members Dr. Andy Carswell, Dr. Andy Owsiak, Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro, and Mr. Jacob Fucetola volunteering to serve.

A motion was made to amend the 2017-2018 Academic Calendar. The proposed change would move the first day of classes for fall semester 2017 from Thursday, August 10, 2017, to Monday, August 14, 2017. This change would include operating Tuesday, December 5, 2017, on a Friday schedule. The first day of classes for spring semester 2018 would move from Thursday, January 4, 2018, to Monday, January 8, 2018. The committee voted to approve the revision. The Vice President for Instruction, Dr. Rahul Shrivastav, asked the Registrar to review the requested changes and determine if they meet policies and guidelines before final approval.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Registrar provided the chair with information concerning the revised calendar. The fall revision would comply with policies and guidelines, but there are complications associated with the proposed spring revision. The committee discussed the calendar revision via email and a motion was made and approved to allow the fall 2017 calendar as approved to move forward to the Executive Committee and to hold the spring 2018 calendar for further consideration by the Educational Affairs Committee.

The committee discussed a proposal to revise the Presidential Scholar/Dean's List Policy that was approved at the March 28, 2016, Educational Affairs Committee and returned to the committee by the Executive Committee at their April 13, 2016, meeting. The proposed revision removed the designation from the summer semesters. After some discussion, the committee tabled the proposal and requested data on how Presidential Scholar/Dean's List designations are awarded at peer and aspirational institutions before further consideration of the topic.

The Petitions Subcommittee has reported an increase in appeals from students who mistakenly select "Audit" rather than "Register" when using the online registration system, Athena, to register for classes. The Registrar presented information on how classes are selected for Audit and Withdrawal in Athena to help the Petitions Subcommittee respond to these types of appeals.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean Williams-Woodward, Ph.D.
Chair, Educational Affairs Committee