

MINUTES
EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
February 8, 2005

Members Present: Malcolm Adams, James Anderson, Woody Beck, Brad Courtenay, Elena Karahanna, Karen Leonas, Susan Sanchez, Karen Shetterley,
Guests: Rebecca Macon (Registrar), Karen Bauer and Charlie Mathies (Institutional Research), Larry Dendy (University Communications), Crystal Weaver (Undergraduate student), Ashley Caudill and Katie Carrigan (News Source 15)

Karen Shetterley called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Bauer from Institutional Research addressed the members with her thoughts on IR's ability to complete a grade inflation study. She proposed a two-step process beginning with an examination of the average GPA for all UGA undergraduate students over approximately the past 30 years. Next, she would like to choose a sample of courses from fall 1994, fall 1999, and fall 2004 to determine the average grade received for all students in the course and compare the score over the three points in time.

The members discussed issues related to the study such as the effect of the HOPE scholarship and the conversion to semesters on grade inflation, whether it would be best to student a sample of courses or all courses in a department, and the purpose of such a study. Dr. Shetterly will prepare a letter to Dr. Del Dunn and the General Education Task Force to explain EAC's request to Dr. Bauer to conduct a study on grade inflation. Dr. Bauer will provide her findings to the Educational Affairs Committee at a future meeting.

The next item of business was approval of the November 2, 2004 EAC minutes. Then, Dr. Shetterley reported on the work of the Drop/Add ad hoc committee. The committee met on December 16, 2004 to review the new Drop/Add Policy which allows students to drop or add courses with no penalty through the 6th day of the semester. EAC members were asked to seek feedback from faculty colleagues and to have that feedback sent to appeals@uga.edu for distribution to the ad hoc committee. The committee will continue to meet and report back to the EAC in March. In addition, Dr. Shetterley will inform Dr. Dunn of the committee's findings.

Ms. Crystal Weaver was introduced and allowed the opportunity to express her concern with the recent change in the Presidential Scholar and Dean's List requirements. Ms. Weaver asked the members to consider changing the policy so that Dean's List honors would be based on merit not hours. The members thanked Ms. Weaver and tabled further discussion and/or action on this matter until the March meeting.

Dr. Denise Mewborn, faculty member and Clarke Co. School Board representative, contacted Dr. Shetterley to ask that the fall break for the University be moved closer to the middle of the term. This would allow the possibility of the local school system and the University to schedule a break at the same time. Dr. Mewborn suggested that the EAC contact UGA's Athletic Director to discuss moving the Georgia-Florida football game to coincide with a fall break scheduled in the middle of fall semester. Malcolm Adams, Woody Beck, Elena Karahanna, Susan Sanchez agreed to serve as a subgroup which would meet with Coach Richt and AD Damon Evans. Debbie Bell will schedule a meeting with the subgroup members, Coach Richt, Damon Evans and Dr. Mewborn.

Dr. Malcolm Adams asked about the status of the recently approved change in the Discrimination and Harassment Policy of the University. Dr. Shetterley will inquire about the change in policy at the upcoming Executive Committee meeting of the University Council.

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:20. The next full meeting of the Educational Affairs Committee will be March 22, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. in 329 Tate.