

DRAFT - Minutes
Educational Affairs Committee
Monday, February 11, 2008

Members Present: Denise Mewborn, Tracie Constantino, Ann Crowther, Dan DerVartanian, Dale Goodhue, Loch Johnson, Sarajane Love, Susan Quinlan, William Vencill, Kathryn Bowers (for Conner McCarthy), Matt Gore (for Wesley Burnett)

Guests: Rebecca Macon (Registrar), Amanda Woodruff (Red & Black), Deborah Bell (OVPI)

Dr. Mewborn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and asked for approval of the minutes from the January meeting. Dr. Crowther suggested that a sentence related to the committee's continuation of discussion related to a withdrawal grading system was unnecessary. The minutes were approved with this amendment.

Kathryn Bowers presented the SGA's proposal for a University Preparation Week policy as an information item. Assignment of major tests and projects would be prohibited seven calendar days prior to final exams to allow students to prepare for final examinations without the stress of major assignments or exams the last week of class. Ms. Bowers explained that students would be expected to attend classes during this week and that professors could still cover new material during this time. The members offered suggestions for revisions in the rationale for the proposal. In addition, concerns were raised about enforcement of the policy, infringement on an instructor's academic freedom, defining "major" assignments or tests, and exactly what the students are trying to accomplish with a Preparation Week policy. Ms. Bowers will take the feedback to SGA.

Dr. Mewborn asked for response to the continuation of the discussion from the January meeting related to a student withdrawing from a course without speaking to the instructor. She explained that in some instances, the student may hold the false assumption that he/she is not passing the course and could benefit from talking to the instructor. The members concluded that the new policy which limits the number of withdrawals a UGA student may accrue might take care of this matter.

Rebecca Macon presented the 2009-2010 Academic Calendar to the committee. Ms. Bowers requested a change in date for the Maymester withdrawal date from a Friday to the following Monday, May 24, 2008. The calendar as amended will be sent to the University Council for consideration and approval.

Sarajane Love agreed to chair the University's Housing Appeals Committee.

The members discussed a request from a faculty member for a policy prohibiting guest announcements being made in classes. The members agreed that this could be handled with departmental policies or individual instructor decisions as some instructors may wish to allow certain types of announcements in class.

The final meeting of the Educational Affairs Committee is scheduled for March 17, 2008. Dr. Mewborn asked the members to be prepared to vote on the 2008-2009 EAC chair at that meeting. Dr. Andrews, Dr. Constantino, Dr. Mauricio, and Dr. Quinlan will be eligible for this appointment.

The meeting concluded at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by,

Deborah C. Bell
Office of the Vice President for Instruction