



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – 2013-2014

Dr. Rodney Mauricio, Arts and Sciences (Sciences), Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences - Dr. Kari Turner
(also representing Forestry and Natural Resources)

Arts and Sciences - Dr. Roxanne Eberle (Arts)
Dr. Mark Farmer (Sciences)

Business – Dr. Elena Karahanna

Education – Dr. Laura Bierema

Environment and Design – Dr. James Reap
(also representing Public Health, Social Work, and Ecology)

Family and Consumer Sciences - Dr. Joan Fischer

Journalism and Mass Communication - Mr. David Hazinski

Public and International Affairs - Dr. Audrey Haynes

Veterinary Medicine – Dr. Branson Ritchie, absent
(also representing Pharmacy, Law, and Engineering)

Provost's Representative – Dr. Laura Jolly

Undergraduate Student Representative – Mr. Alex Caille, absent

Graduate/Professional Student Representative – Ms. Heather Hershey, absent

Guests:

Dr. Jan Hathcote

Ms. Cheryl DePaolo

The Educational Affairs Committee met on March 24, 2014, at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes of the November 18, 2014, meeting were approved.

Rodney Mauricio updated the committee on the results of the four Petition Subcommittee meetings held since the last Educational Affairs Committee meeting. On December 2, 2013, 27 appeals were reviewed, 23 were approved and 4 were denied. On January 13, 2014, 19 appeals were reviewed, 14 were approved and 5 were denied. On February 17, 2014, 26 appeals were reviewed, 16 were approved and 10 were denied. On March 24, 2014, 13 appeals were reviewed, 8 were approved, 4 were denied and 1 was tabled.

The committee discussed the current timing of the notification of retroactive hardship withdrawal appeals to the Petition Subcommittee. The committee decided that all information should be entered in the system as it is received to allow subcommittee members to review the materials at their convenience and a notification should be sent if a large number of appeals or large number of students who plan to appeal is anticipated. However, all decisions will still be made at the Petition Subcommittee's meeting and preliminary votes for that meeting will still be cast in advance of the meeting. There was no desire for rolling decisions.

The committee discussed the issue of hardship withdrawals within the current withdrawal policy and will recommend a change in the policy that will allow the Petitions Subcommittee to assign the grade of WP in the

case of documented retroactive hardship withdrawals. Thus the faculty member will no longer be asked to assign the grade, and this will eliminate the concern of how to locate and obtain a grade from instructors who taught the courses in previous semesters and are no longer at the institution. In addition, the committee has access to detailed information concerning the hardship that the instructor does not have access to when deciding to assign a WP grade. The committee will also propose a change in the policy for university hardship withdrawals for all courses in a semester to give Student Support Services authority to assign a WP for each class without asking the instructor to assign a grade. The committee decided that the partial withdrawals approved by Student Support Services will continue to require a letter to the instructor requesting that the instructor assign a WP or WF. Since removing the faculty from grading in these circumstances is something the committee does reluctantly, and because partial hardship withdrawals are to be only rarely granted, the EAC requests that Student Support Services delivers an annual report to EAC recording the number of hardship withdrawals granted, both total and partial and to include for each case, in general, the circumstances that warranted the granting of any partial hardship withdrawal. The committee approved all these items.

The committee discussed the current GPA requirements for University Latin honors and the number of students who receive this distinction at UGA compared to other peer and aspirant institutions. The committee acknowledges that UGA is admitting students with increasing stronger academic credentials which accounts for the increase in the number of honors distinctions given. By changing the required GPAs to lower the percentage of UGA students earning an honors distinction, the distinctions will be more meaningful. A proposal to make the following change to the required overall GPA for University Latin honors was approved by the committee:

From:	Summa Cum Laude	3.90	To:	Summa Cum Laude	3.90
	Magna Cum Laude	3.70		Magna Cum Laude	3.75
	Cum Laude	3.50		Cum Laude	3.60

The changes would be effective for students entering in Fall Semester 2014 and enrolled students would be subject to the current GPA cutoffs.

The committee discussed the proposed 2015-2016 Academic Calendar and approved the draft of the calendar as proposed. There was a discussion concerning the irregular schedule on the last day of classes and the recommendation that the Registrar attempt to make that last day of classes less disadvantageous for MWF classes. The Calendar Subcommittee recommended the adoption of a calendar that counted finals as instructional hours in order to alleviate the persistent scheduling problems with our current calendar. This is allowed by the Board of Regents and has been adopted by several USG schools. The full committee voted to recommend that the University of Georgia begin counting finals as instructional hours in the creation of future calendars. The EAC will continue to discuss changes to the future calendars in the next academic year.

Members were asked to serve on summer Petition Subcommittees. Dr. Roxanne Eberle, Dr. Elena Karahanna, and Dr. Rodney Mauricio agreed to serve on the May 19, 2014, subcommittee. Dr. Mark Farmer and Dr. Joan Fischer agreed to serve on the June 16, 2014, subcommittee. A third member will be added at a later date. Dr. Audrey Haynes and Mr. James Reap agreed to serve on the July 14, 2014, subcommittee. A third member will be added at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rodney Mauricio
Chair, Educational Affairs Committee