

MINUTES
EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
March 23, 2001

Members Present: David Williams, William Barstow, Donald Evans, John Dagley, Timothy Denny, Dan DerVartanian, Denise Mewborn, Annette Poulsen, Rick Tarleton, Monica Alzate, Ann Crowther

Guests: Dr. Jim Fletcher - Associate Vice President, Dr. Jan Hathcote - Associate Dean, Dr. Nancy Thompson - Department Head, Dr. David Knauft - Associate Dean, Brian Basinger - Red & Black

David Williams, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and addressed reconsideration by the University Council of the 2002/2003 calendar approved at the last Council meeting. Based on incorrect information related to the dates of Homecoming weekend and believing that Homecoming coincided with the proposed Fall Break of October 14-15, the Council approved the calendar with a Fall Break scheduled for October 21-22. Dr. Williams will ask the Council to approve the calendar with a Fall Break scheduled for October 14-15, the original dates proposed by the Educational Affairs Committee and reconfirmed by the committee after the last Council meeting by electronic voting.

Professor Williams distributed a list of EAC members who will remain on the committee during the 2001/2002 year and would therefore be eligible to serve as the next chair of the Educational Affairs Committee. Dr. Barstow asked that his name not be considered, leaving Tim Denny, Denise Mewborn, Sylvia Pannell, and Rick Tarleton. The members decided to elect a chair for the coming year at the next meeting of the Full EAC.

The minutes of the January 19, 2001 Educational Affairs Committee meeting were corrected to reflect a committee vote on the 2002/2003 academic calendar of 8-2 instead of unanimous.

Dr. Nancy Thompson presented revisions to the University System of Georgia's Independent Study policies for the committee's review. Dr. Thompson pointed out two major changes, the first addressing high school and home schooled students. The division will now require these students to be joint-enrolled in a college or university and provide proof of enrollment at registration. The second revision that Dr. Thompson highlighted concerns the division's withdrawal policy. Students who notify Independent Study of their desire to withdraw from a course prior to the midpoint (6 months from the date they register for the course) will receive a course grade of "W." Those who withdraw after the official midpoint will receive a course grade of "WF." The EAC members discussed the possibility of changing the withdrawal deadline from 6 months to 9 months, but ultimately voted unanimously to approve the policy revisions as submitted.

Dr. Jan Hathcote presented a request from the College of Family & Consumer Sciences for a waiver of the University's residency requirement for those students completing a B.S.F.C.S. degree with a major in Child and Family Development with a Child Life option. These students spend their final year at the Medical College of Georgia, take MCG coursework, and are unable to complete 40 of the last 60 hours at UGA. The request was approved by unanimous vote.

Prompted by a request for a mandatory minimum 30 credit hours per year enrollment rule by Dr. Daniel DerVartanian, Dr. Williams introduced Dr. David Knauft and asked that he and Dr. James Fletcher, members of the Provost's appointed Task Force on Credit Hour Production, explain that committee's work and results. With the semester conversion, the average student's course load has dropped to approximately 13.45 credit hours per semester leaving the University with a financial deficit. If the trend continues, serious cut backs will be required. The Task Force made several recommendations to the Provost. The EAC members agreed that they needed time to read the Task Force report before the issue was addressed. Each member will be mailed a copy of the report in time for review prior to the next Full EAC meeting scheduled for Friday, April 6 at 2:00 p.m.. Dr. Knauft was asked to attend that meeting as well and Dr. Williams indicated that Gary Moore, the Registrar, would be invited also.

The final item on the agenda was presented to the committee for information. Currently, students requesting a waiver or substitution of a core course should appeal to the Petitions Subcommittee of the Educational Affairs Committee. Some schools/colleges have been granting these substitutions and others require the student to appeal to the EAC. Dr. Crowther presented the OVPI's new policy delegating authority to review student petitions for substitutions and waivers of courses in Areas C-E to the dean's office in which the student is enrolled. Waivers of Area F may be made by the department. If the student's request for a waiver is denied, he/she may appeal that decision to the Petitions Subcommittee of the Educational Affairs Committee. Schools/colleges shall provide updates of substitutions/waivers to the Office of the Vice President for Instruction at the end of each term.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20p.m. The Educational Affairs Committee will meet again on April 6, 2001 at 2:00 in Room 105 Old College.