



Educational Affairs Committee
Minutes for Friday, September 28, 2007 – 3:30 p.m.
Tate Student Center

Members Present: Denise Mewborn (Chair), Gayle Andrews, Tracie Costantino, Ann Crowther, Dan DerVartanian, Dale Goodhue, Sarajane Love, Jan Westpheling (proxy for Rodney Mauricio), Susan Quinlan, William Vencill, Conner McCarthy, Wesley Burnett, and Brian Paul Freese (Staff)

Guests: Kathryn Bowers (SGA), Rebecca Macon (University Registrar), Deborah Bell (Office of the VP for Instruction), Jere Morehead (Vice President for Instruction), and Arnett Mace (Provost and Senior Vice President)

Dr. Denise Mewborn called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. She thanked members and guests for attending, and those present introduced themselves.

Comments from the Chair

Dr. Mewborn suggested the committee reorder the agenda to allow guests to present their agenda items before old business as a courtesy. The committee agreed unanimously to do so.

New Business

Dr. Arnett Mace suggested that the Educational Affairs Committee consider two issues of importance to the University: (1) the number of course withdrawals permitted and (2) number of course drops permitted during registration and drop/add periods.

Dr. Mace shared that these issues adversely impact both students and the University. Students registering for more courses than they intend to take and then dropping them take seats away from other students who may need those courses. Funding from the Board of Regents through the state legislature is reduced when students drop courses during the drop/add period, negatively impacting resources provided for education. Some courses must be canceled when enrollment falls below the required minimums (5 for a graduate course and 10 for an undergraduate course) due to students dropping during drop/add. There was general discussion on these issues.

Dr. Mewborn suggested the committee assign these issues to a subcommittee jointly formed with the Vice President for Student Affairs to consider the matter. This would continue and expand the issues considered by this subcommittee during the last academic year.

The committee agreed unanimously to do so.

Dr. Mace requested that Professor Jere Morehead participate in that subcommittee.

Professor Morehead shared information about grade inflation and provided the committee with a handout regarding Princeton University's efforts in this area. There was general discussion on this issue.

Dr. Mewborn shared two issues related to academic appeals: (1) explanations provided to students and faculty for decisions made by the Petitions Subcommittee and (2) what documentation should be required from students who appeal based upon mental or physical illness. There was general discussion on this issue.

Dr. Mewborn requested that staff contact Legal Affairs to ensure that language used in appeal decision letters was appropriate and met the requirements of University policy in this area. Staff were also asked to contact Student Affairs to determine what documentation is required for hardship withdrawals, and then prepare a proposed addition to the University policy that clarifies what documentation would be required to demonstrate mental or physical illness when it is the basis for an appeal to EAC.

Ms. Deborah Bell presented the Academic Honesty annual report for 2006-2007 to the committee and shared a graph that shows an increasing utilization of the Academic Honesty process by faculty, which suggests that the process is perceived to be working by faculty.

Old Business

Ms. Bell again requested consideration of a request for an expulsion transcript notation for those students expelled under "A Culture of Honesty" for multiple violations of the honesty policy.

Mr. Brian Freese presented the results of collected information – University System comparisons, peer comparisons, and aspirational comparisons, etc. – requested by the committee at the previous meeting.

The results showed that among University System of Georgia institutions, four were contacted for information. Of those four, all (100%) responded to the questions asked. Of those that responded, one (25%) uses notations and three (75%) do not. Among peer institutions, fifteen were contacted for information. Of those fifteen, eight (53%) responded to the questions asked. Of those that responded, three (38%) use notations and five (62%) do not. Among aspirational institutions, fourteen were contacted for information. Of those fourteen, twelve (86%) responded to the questions asked. Of those that responded, eight (67%) use notations and four (33%) do not.

Dr. William Vencill moved that the matter be forwarded to the University Council for consideration, specifically that a student expelled from the University for an Academic Honesty violation have placed upon his/her transcript the notation "Academic Dishonesty Expulsion" to remain permanently on the transcript. Dr. Dan DerVartanian seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes

Dr. Dale Goodhue moved that the minutes of the August 20, 2007 Educational Affairs Committee be approved as recorded without revision. Mr. Conner McCarthy seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, Dr. Sarajane Love moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Vencill seconded, and the meeting ended at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Paul Freese", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Paul Freese
Office of the Vice President for Instruction