



Educational Affairs Committee
Minutes for Monday, October 22, 2007 – 3:30 p.m.
Tate Student Center

Members Present: Denise Mewborn (Chair), Gayle Andrews, Ann Crowther, Dan DerVartanian, Dale Goodhue, Sarajane Love, William Vencill, Kathryn Bowers (proxy for Conner McCarthy), Wesley Burnett, and Brian Paul Freese (Staff)

Others: Julia Sevy (Red & Black)

Dr. Denise Mewborn called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. She thanked members and guests for attending.

Comments from the Chair

Dr. Mewborn shared that the University Council Executive Committee approved placing the committee's request 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 on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Minutes

Professor Sarajane Love moved that the minutes of the September 28, 2007 Educational Affairs Committee be approved as recorded without revision. Ms. Kathryn Bowers seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Appeal Decision Letters: Dr. Mewborn provided an update regarding the rationale requirement for appeal decisions made by the Petitions Subcommittee. Staff met with Mr. Arthur Leed of University Legal Affairs regarding the matter. It was the opinion of Mr. Leed that the language currently being used as rationale for appeal decisions was adequate, proper and met the requirements of the appeals policy. There was discussion regarding this matter.

Denial Letters: Rationale statements will now read: "After carefully reviewing your petition, your previous record at the University of Georgia, and the recommendation of your academic dean, the Subcommittee voted to deny your request. Each appeal is reviewed upon its individual merits, and the Subcommittee found no basis that would warrant at this time."

Professor Love moved that the new language be endorsed by the committee for staff use in appeal decision letters. Dr. William Vencill seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Appeals Based on Hardship: Dr. Mewborn provided an update regarding the requirement that documentation of hardship be provided by a student submitting an appeal based upon such hardship. She suggested that a staff-implemented approach would be sufficient, and Mr. Brian Freese agreed that updating the website and related handouts for students wishing to file an appeal could be accomplished. There was discussion regarding this matter.

Dr. Vencill moved that staff update the website and related appeals handouts to request a student provide documentation of hardship (such as mental or physical illness or personal tragedy) when such hardship is the basis for an appeal, either in whole or in part. Dr. Dan DerVartanian seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Withdrawals/Drops: Dr. Mewborn shared that a special committee had been formed regarding Dr. Arnett Mace's request that the Educational Affairs Committee consider two issues of importance to the University: (1) course withdrawals (2) drop/add. The committee will initially consider adding one day of "add" to the "drop/add" period. This would ensure that the maximum number of seats in each course would be filled; this benefits both the University by ensuring adequate revenue for instructional hours and the student body by offering otherwise unavailable seats in needed courses. There was discussion regarding this matter.

Because the next meeting of EAC will not be until January 2008, Dr. Mewborn requested EAC members to vote on a drop/add recommendation by email, rather than calling a special meeting. There was unanimous consent by the committee members to this request.

New Business

C- Grades and Academic Renewal: The committee was asked to consider what should be done with grades of C- in regard to the Academic Renewal policy of the University. University undergraduate students who have been readmitted after a period of absence of at least five calendar years from any postsecondary institution are eligible to petition for Academic Renewal. If approved, Academic Renewal will initiate a new grade point average that will be used in the determination of a student's academic standing. This policy allows University of Georgia degree-seeking students who earlier had experienced academic difficulty (probation, continued probation, or dismissal) to make a fresh start and have one final opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree.

Currently, the policy states that academic credit for previously completed coursework – including transfer credit – will be retained only for courses in which grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, S, or K have been earned. Courses with D grades must be repeated if they are required in the student's degree program. Retained grades are not calculated in the Academic Renewal GPA but are counted in the Academic Renewal Hours Earned. The policy does not address the issue of C- grades. There was discussion regarding this matter.

Dr. DerVartanian moved that for the purpose of Academic Renewal, C- grades would be treated the same as a D, so that courses with grades of C- must be repeated if they are required in the student's degree program and grades of C- will be removed from the Academic Renewal grade point average. Dr. Gayle Andrews seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, Ms. Kathryn Bowers moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Vencill seconded, and the meeting ended at 3:58 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