EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
ACADEMIC AND APPELLATE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2014-2015 Academic Year

COMMITTEE: Admission and Retention Policies Committee

1. Membership (include ex-officio members).

   Regular Members: Allison Danell, Melinda Doty, Michael Duffy, Katie Flanagan, Amy Frank, Susanne Jones, Mia Leone, Jonathan Morris (Chair)

   Ex Officio Members: Edward Apetz, John Fletcher, Jayne Geissler, Derek Maher

2. Meeting Dates
   (include members present and those who contributed to committee action, but were not at the meeting)

   September 8, 2014: Allison Danell, Michael Duffy, Katie Flanagan, Amy Frank, Mia Leone, Jonathan Morris, Edward Apetz, Andrew Bowers, John Fletcher, Jayne Geissler, Derek Maher, Andrew Morehead, Lori Lee

   October 6, 2014: Allison Danell, Michael Duffy, Katie Flanagan, Amy Frank, Mia Leone, Edward Apetz, Andrew Bowers, John Fletcher, Jayne Geissler, Derek Maher, John Given

   November 3, 2014: Allison Danell, Melinda Doty, Michael Duffy, Katie Flanagan, Amy Frank, Mia Leone, Jonathan Morris, Edward Apetz, John Fletcher, Derek Maher, John Given

   December 1, 2014: Melinda Doty, Michael Duffy, Katie Flanagan, Amy Frank, Susanne Jones, Jonathan Morris, Edward Apetz, John Fletcher, Jayne Geissler, John Given

   January 12, 2015: Allison Danell, Melinda Doty, Michael Duffy, Katie Flanagan, Amy Frank, Susanne Jones, Mia Leone, Jonathan Morris, Edward Apetz, John Fletcher, Jayne Geissler, Derek Maher

   February 2, 2015: Allison Danell, Melinda Doty, Michael Duffy, Katie Flanagan, Amy Frank, Susanne Jones, Mia Leone, Jonathan Morris, John Fletcher, Jayne Geissler, Derek Maher

   April 6, 2015: Allison Danell, Melinda Doty, Michael Duffy, Katie Flanagan, Amy Frank, John Fletcher, Jayne Geissler, Derek Maher

3. Subcommittees established during the year (include progress and/or completion of work).

   a. Subcommittee was established on 9-8-2014 to review student concerns over the new plus/minus grading system, particularly the possible compression of grades below A and above D letter grades. Morris and Flanagan would review the facts related to the former student presentation in 2012-2013 before the Admission and Retention Policies Committee to determine if additional questions need to be addressed on this issue. The Committee in September 2013 had followed up on the short-term impact on plus/minus grading. The subcommittee did not place additional questions or concerns on the committee’s agenda for the year. The work was completed.

   b. Subcommittee was established on 10-6-2014 to develop policies and procedures related to the review and reporting of student progress and retention. Proposed policies and monitoring practices would be crafted in response to the policies and regulations document developed by the University
Working Group on Fostering Undergraduate Student Success (FUSS). Morris, Flanagan and Duffy would work with John Given, Vice Chair of the Faculty, to create a plan of action. The subcommittee reported back to the committee on 12-1-2014 with five responses to the five requests of the working group for determining, monitoring, and facilitating student success.

1.) Determine whether it is reasonable or desirable to implement a campus-wide practice of monitoring course offerings to ensure students' ability to graduate within four years, or whether current, department and college-level efforts are sufficient. **Response:** This practice of monitoring course offerings to ensure students' ability to graduate within four years is sufficiently monitored at the college and unit-level. 2.) Determine what “appropriate student progress” is vis-à-vis the general education curriculum and where ECU’s Foundations Curriculum requirements allow students to make such progress (Part III, Section C(1)). **Response:** Appropriate student progress is the successful completion of a significant number of courses at the appropriate numerical level in accordance with a given student's years enrolled at ECU.

3.) Determine what constitutes potentially "excessive" and "unnecessary" extra-foundations requirements and whether ECU program currently have any such excessive or unnecessary requirements. **Response:** Excessive Foundations requirements are those that are so restrictive that if a student were to change programs/majors he/she would require additional semesters to meet the FC of another program/major. The programs that ECU has in this category are high-demand and successful programs.

4.) Determine what constitutes "excessive" admission requirements to majors and whether ECU has programs that impose such excessive requirements. **Response:** Programs that have admission requirements so high/extensive that those not admitted to the program require additional time (semesters) in another program to attain graduation. The programs that ECU has in this category are high-demand and successful programs. 5.) Determine how compliance with these regulations will be maintained into the future, including the triennial review called for in Part III, Section C. **Response:** The roll of overseeing compliance with FUSS policies must be written into the charge of a Faculty Senate Committee. This is the responsibility of ECU’s Committee on Committees.

The subcommittee’s report was approved by the committee. The work was completed.

c. A subcommittee was established on 12-1-2014 to review suggested changes to syllabus language in the ECU Faculty Manual, Part VI. The agenda item was carried over from the 2013-2014 academic year. The subcommittee of Flanagan and Morris reported to the committee on 1-12-2015 and on 2-2-2015 with their recommended changes to the ECU Faculty Manual, for Part VI, section 1, item V: Course Expectations and Requirements, with deletions and additions that more clearly identify syllabus requirements, recommendations, and campus resources. The work was completed.

4. Accomplishments during the year, especially as addressed through committee goals. Please include recommendations made to any University agency other than the Faculty Senate that will be noted under #5.

a. At the request of John Given, Vice Chair of the Faculty, the committee formulated policies and procedures for monitoring and reporting on student progress and retention, as outlined in the University’s new regulations for the UNC Fostering Undergraduate Student Success (FUSS) policies. The committee crafted responses to five questions from the University working group on FUSS, and brought them forward to the Faculty Senate for approval.

b. The committee approved the recommendations of the University working group on its proposed changes to ECU’s retention policies in the new document, Student Success Policies, that would go into effect in fall 2015. Jayne Geissler, Executive Director of Academic Advising and Support Center and ex-officio committee member, guided the committee through its discussion of policy implications. The committee approved four key provisions of the proposed new retention policies relating to academic progress alerts, warning, probation, and suspension, and brought its
recommendations before the Faculty Senate for approval. The provisions of the new policy will be
inserted into the University Undergraduate Catalog.

c. The committee approved new syllabus language for the ECU Faculty Manual, Part VI. Carried
over business from spring semester 2014, the committee recommended changes to the ECU
Faculty Manual, for Part VI, section 1, item V: Course Expectations and Requirements, with
deletions and additions that more clearly identify syllabus requirements, recommendations, and
campus resources. These recommendations were approved by the Faculty Senate and the
Chancellor.

d. The committee took up discussion of grade change oversight for the unit head to better monitor the
practices and integrity of the grading system. Derek Maher, Associate Dean for Undergraduate
Studies and ex-officio member of the committee, made the request and has helped to identify the
problems and possible policy implications. As a result of this dialogue among the College, the
Registrar’s Office, and our committee, Angela Anderson has generated a new report that
completely lists grade changes and their reasons. Our committee will continue to monitor the
development of grade change codes and will ask Angela Anderson to join the committee’s
discussion of this topic.

e. The committee reviewed and approved the revised student forgiveness policy as part of FUSS
priorities for student retention and success, which shortens the mandatory period of suspension
and forgives Fs earned prior to readmission. The revised forgiveness policy was approved along
with sentences under the old policy that were reworked for clarity and consistency.

f. The committee has participated in the new University and UNC initiative on understanding the
role of non-cognitive skill development strategies. Morris and Flanagan attended the January
conference in Chapel Hill and are members of ECU’s new ad-hoc committee on developing non-
cognitive skill development, to increase retention rates among at-risk first year students. The
committee will continue to monitor and discuss the ad-hoc committee’s plan of action and
successes. The ad-hoc committee will report to our committee in fall 2015.

g. The committee has become involved in the American Council for Education’s new Alternative
Credit Project through attendance at the early meetings in Greenville and Washington DC and will
continue to monitor the program’s possible implementation at ECU.

h. At the request of Jayne Geissler, the committee will consider instituting a 10-year cap on transfer
credits accepted by ECU. The committee will work with Angela Anderson to develop a policy on
time limits for accepting transfer course credits.

5. Reports to the Faculty Senate (include dates and resolution numbers).

December 2, 2014
(Resolution #14-86); Resolution to revise the University Undergraduate Catalog to include adoption of
key provisions of the new Student Success Policies for Fall 2015.

January 27, 2014
(Resolution #15-13); Resolution to revise the University Undergraduate Catalog referencing
Readmission under Forgiveness Policy.
(Resolution #15-14); Resolution to add response to the UNC Fostering Undergraduate Student Success
(FUSS) Policies.

March 17, 2015
(Resolution #15-39); Resolution to delete in the University Undergraduate Catalog, Academic
Regulations, Subsection: Re-examinations.
(Resolution #15-40); Resolution to revise syllabus items and language in ECU Faculty Manual, Part
VI, Section I.V. Course Expectations and Requirements.
6. Business carried over to next year (list in priority order).

Continue discussion of student grade change codes and grade change oversight at the college and unit level.

Continue discussion of instituting a time limit on transfer credits accepted by ECU.

Continue to monitor the success of new retention policies in academic year 2015-2016 relating to academic progress alerts, warning, probation, suspension, and forgiveness.

Continue to work with the ad-hoc committee on developing non-cognitive skill development, to increase retention rates among at-risk first year students in order to develop successful programs.

Continue to monitor and discuss implications of ACE’s new Alternative Credit Program on the ECU campus.

7. Evaluation of the committee (include anything that hindered or assisted the committee's work during the year).

A. Charge: Sufficient
B. Personnel: Current personnel is adequate
C. Attendance: attendance was very good
D. Responsibilities: responsibilities are sufficiently defined
E. Activities: Committee members worked well together and accomplished much during the academic year.

8. Suggestion(s) to the Chair of the Faculty and/or Faculty Senate for improving the effectiveness of the committee.

None

9. Does the Committee’s organizational meeting next year need to be earlier than the date set this year?

No

If yes, when do you prefer:

Signed: Chairperson

Secretary

Please forward the completed annual report to the Faculty Senate office via email (faculty senate@ecu.edu) no later than May 1, 2015.