COMMITTEE: Admission and Retention Policies Committee

MEETING DATE: Monday, January 12, 2015

PERSON PRESIDING: Jonathan Morris

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Allison Danell, Melinda Doty, Michael Duffy, Katie Flanagan, Amy Frank, Susanne Jones

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Edward Apetz, John Fletcher, Jayne Geissler, Mia Leone, Derek Maher

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ACTIONS OF THE MEETING

Agenda Item: Review the Minutes for December 1, 2014.

Action Taken: Minutes were approved

Announcements:

Morris provided information on two important meetings where university-wide attendance, including representation from the Admission and Retention Policies Committee, has been encouraged. One or more committee members will have attended both events.

- Conference entitled Redefining Student Success: The Roll of Non-cognitive Skill Development Strategies, being held January 21 at the Sheraton Hotel in Chapel Hill (featured presenters: William Sedlacek, Gregory Walton, James Zull). Visiting teams from the UNC campuses have been asked to consider how we can enhance the development of non-cognitive skills among our students and what strategies we can use to accomplish this goal. The conference is part of a larger initiative to study the ways in which higher education has the ability to influence transformative change in student success and degree completion. The UNC General Administration was awarded a State Systems Transformative Grant funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

- Meeting entitled Academic Credit for Military Training and Experience: Our Time, Our Future, NC Senate Bill 761, and American Council on Education (ACE), that was held on November 6 in Harvey Hall, The Murphy Center, East Carolina University, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The UNC General Administration provided background on the strategic directions and NC senate bill while ACE clarified their review process, quality measures for determining credit recommendations, and also guidance in the use and benefit of the Joint Services Transcript and ACE Military Guide.

- Meeting for the American Council on Education (ACE) will be held with all participating institutions in March in Washington DC. Dr. Morris (ARPC) and Dr. George Bailey (FCIE) will attend.
Agenda Item: Review PRR/ University Policy, Regulation, and Rules on Student Conduct Process, REG11.30.01 Version 8 (effective January 2015) to ensure that it is consistent with how faculty would view such a policy and its sanctions. This charge came from Andrew Morehead, Chair of the Faculty Senate. There is not yet a definition on student disciplinary probation in the ECU Faculty Manual, which links to the PRR on student conduct. This is the final part of the Student Conduct Process, as it relates to the PRR, to be evaluated by the Faculty Senate.

Discussion: Morris distributed a handout with an e-mail communication with Morehead and with the policy section in question, 3.3.2—3.3.2.3 (search “student conduct process” on the PRR ECU webpage, accessible from Faculty and Staff webpage.) The committee discussed the process through which a student is placed on disciplinary probation and the role of the academic conduct board. This involves the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the Academic Integrity Board (University Committee on Academic Integrity).

Action Taken: Morris will contact Dr. Hardy to see if someone from Student Affairs can come to our meeting and discuss in greater detail the policy and specific requirements of disciplinary probation.

Agenda Item: Report on suggested changes to syllabus language in ECU Faculty Manual, Part VI (Flanagan)

Discussion: Committee members agreed on the importance of modifying the present syllabus language in the ECU Faculty Manual, which should advise faculty on essential parts of the required document. Maher noted that an unclear syllabus is the basis of many student complaints in Arts and Sciences.

Action Taken: Morris will meet with Flanagan to discuss further action on the syllabus language.

Agenda Item: Review Student Readmission to the University under the revised Forgiveness Policy

Discussion: Geissler distributed a handout, entitled Readmission under Forgiveness Policy. She explained the changes that will go into effect in fall 2015. Students who have not been enrolled at ECU for a minimum of four consecutive semesters (2 years), instead of 6 under the old policy, may request readmission under the revised forgiveness policy. F letter grades earned before suspension and readmission will be forgiven, but not Ds as in the old policy. Unlike the old policy, readmitted students will not automatically be placed on academic probation for 19 semester hours. Rather, they will return under one of two forgiveness policies. First, readmitted students with a former GPA of 2 or above (once the Fs are removed), will be placed on Good Academic Standing for the first semester. Second, readmitted students with a former GPA that is below 2 (once Fs are removed), will be placed on Warning during the first semester of attendance. Geissler
said that the Working Group was concerned that under the old system students could be forgiven for taking large amounts of credit that was not exempt under the UNC policy on the student surcharge fee applied to credits that exceeded the 140 hour limit imposed on students in the university system. The new rules have been added in an attempt to arrive at more consistency in the procedures and results of the policy.

The committee recommended that sentences below the deleted text of the old policy (in red strikethrough) be reworded for clarity and consistency. In the first sentence, replace the words “a student make take advantage of the readmission” for “a student may be readmitted.” In the second sentence, remove the phrase “students should be aware” and bring the phrase “for degrees with distinction” to the front of the sentence.

Action Taken: The committee accepted a motion to approve the revised forgiveness policy document with minor edits. Morris will send the committee through e-mail the revised document with edits, for a final vote.

Agenda Item: Review whether there should be oversight from the unit head for all grades changed within the department

Discussion: Maher presented the concern within the College of Arts and Sciences for accountability in grade changes, particularly with respect to independent study course grades.

Action Taken: In the interest of time, this item will be taken up at a future meeting.

The committee adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 2, 2015 at 4:00 PM in Rawl Annex 142.