

COMMITTEE: Admissions & Retention Policies

MEETING DATE: 03 October 2016

PERSON PRESIDING: Jay Newhard

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Amy Frank, Johannes Hattingh, Gregory Lapicki, Jay Newhard, Daniel Shouse, Beth Thompson,

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Fletcher, Jayne Geissler, Amber Thomas, Trey Nance (rep. of student body)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: George Bailey, Rita Reeves

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Minutes approved unanimously.

Agenda Item: Potential change in University Undergraduate Catalog with regard to Baccalaureate Degree Requirement

Discussion: Current catalog requires that a minimum of 30 s.h. and at least 50% of total hours in the major come from ECU to receive a degree conferred by ECU. Committee has been asked by Professor John Stiller, Chair of the Faculty (cf. Memorandum, 14 July 2016) to consider whether 50% of total hours requirement should be retained since this requirement is stronger than what is mandated by SACs or GA.

George Bailey provided some historical context for the provision. This issue was last considered by the faculty senate in the 1980s and the 50% language was put in place to ensure that at least some courses within the major are taken at ECU for degrees conferred by ECU. This provision was controversial, particularly for nursing and chemistry departments. A similar policy is in place at NCSU and UNC-CH, but the specific requirements are college specific. For example, at NCSU, some colleges require at least 50% of major courses be taken at NCSU, but other colleges (e.g. engineering) have higher requirements. In the absence of this provision, it is theoretically possible to get a degree from ECU without taking a single course in the major. A more detailed history is provided in the agenda for the 03 October 2016 meeting.

Rita Reeves (IPAR liaison to SACS) noted that Provost Ron Mitchelson asked her about this policy and ECU has stronger requirements than SACS. Provost Mitchelson inquired if this requirement could be revised or deleted. Ms. Reeves noted that ECU has more part-way home students (>90 c.h. and >2.0 GPA that have left the university) than any other university in the UNC system, and that this policy is perceived by part-way home students as an impediment to completing their degrees. Ms. Reeves also noted that it is a SACS provision that the institution awarding a degree is responsible for the integrity of the degree awarded.

Several questions/concerns/issues came up in the discussion by the committee.

-Is this policy a real barrier or merely a perceived barrier by part-way home students? If a perceived barrier, could this be addressed by using different language in the catalog? (For example, 15 c.h. instead of 50%.)

-Is it possible to compromise and require 25% of major courses be required at ECU?

-Our undergraduate student population has changed significantly since this policy was last considered in the 1980s. We have significantly more non-traditional students whose life situations might require them to move several times during their degree. This is particularly true for many military students. We want to provide a way for part-way home students from other institutions to finish their degree at ECU.

-ECU has ~2000 transfer students currently and there is increasing pressure to increase this population.

-The committee noted that this policy has very different implications for different majors/departments. Many liberal arts majors only require 30 s.h. in the major, while other departments that offer professional degrees may require >70 hours, so the number of courses in the "50% of s.h. in the major" varies greatly by department.

-The committee is still unclear whether or not cognates are included in "s.h. in the major"

Action Taken:

Assigned additional duties to: Jayne Geisser will gather additional information for our next meeting including what counts as a course in the major (cognates?).

Agenda Item: AMP-application

Discussion: Subcommittee (Fletcher, Frank, Geisser) met and designed an application that allows students to tell about themselves such that students can be considered on an individual basis to determine the way to admit them (freshman, transfer, etc). The application was shared with the AMP UP committee and it seems like it will work for this spring. After learning about the student applicants this round, the committee may revise the application in the future.

Action Taken: This task is completed for now. The committee may revisit in the future.

Assigned additional duties to:

NEXT MEETING: 07 November 2016

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Baccalaureate Degree Requirements
2. Independent Study Courses