

COMMITTEE: Admissions & Retention Policies

MEETING DATE: December 4, 2017

PERSON PRESIDING: Jay Newhard

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Gregory Lapicki, Kaye Dotson, Beth Thompson, Guglielmo Fucci, and Jay Newhard

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Fletcher, Jayne Geissler, Amy Frank, and Amber Thomas

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Derek Maher

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Approval of the minutes of the November meeting

Action Taken: Jay Newhard moved and Amber Thomas seconded that the minutes of the November meeting be approved by the committee. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item: Discussion of Review of Grade Replacement Policy

Discussion: The committee has been tasked by the Finish in Four working group to discuss a change to the current grade replacement policy in the Undergraduate Catalog to include upper level courses (3000 and above). It has been observed that this change can help some students enhance their GPA and, hence, graduate on time. Derek Maher explained to the committee the current policy and the proposed change. He outlined the main reasons for seeking a change in the policy, with the most important one being increasing the percentage of students graduating on time. John Fletcher asked Maher how this policy would influence those undergraduate students who take classes for graduate credit. Maher pointed out that the policy would only apply to undergraduate classes. Jay Newhard asked whether it would be beneficial to increase the number of grade replacements permitted (e.g. four for courses below 3000, and two for courses 3000 and above) in order to accommodate this expanded use of grade replacement. Although there was some support for this idea, Maher and other committee members did not believe it would be necessary or beneficial.

Action Taken: Fucci moved that the committee approve the proposed change to delete 'below 3000' from the current Grade Replacement Policy, thereby allowing grade replacements in upper division level courses. Thompson seconded. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

Agenda Item: Discussion of Applicants Who May Require Special Considerations or Exceptions to Policies.

Discussion: John Fletcher brought to the attention of the committee the draft of a policy for applicants who may require special consideration or exception to policies. Fletcher explained to the committee that the Office of Undergraduate Admission already grants special consideration to some domestic applicants; the proposed policy would just put in writing what they have been doing for many years. This would also increase transparency as it would be explicitly written that students who do not meet

minimum standards (MCR or MAR) can petition to have their application reviewed for consideration for a Chancellor's Exception. Fletcher also pointed out that this policy would apply to general admission students. The committee expressed the concern that such policy would lead to an increased number of non-admitted students who would petition for a review of their case. The committee suggested that Fletcher add language that would instruct students who wish to appeal their denial of admission to contact the Undergraduate Admission Office to ascertain the likelihood of their appeal process to be successful. The committee also suggested that Fletcher add language to indicate that petitioning is available to applicants who are not admitted, whether meeting minimum standards or not.

Action Taken: The item will be taken up again when a revised draft is ready.

Assigned additional duties to: Fletcher agreed to present an amended draft of the policy to the committee at its next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2018