

COMMITTEE: Admissions & Retention Policies

MEETING DATE: February 5, 2018

PERSON PRESIDING: Jay Newhard

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

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Approval of the minutes of the January meeting

Action Taken: Fletcher moved that the minutes of the December meeting be approved by the committee and Fucci seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item: Discussion of Review of Grading System Policies

Discussion: The committee has been tasked to consider adding information to the ECU Undergraduate catalog, under the Section pertaining to Grading System, regarding who is authorized to submit a grade, change a grade, and under what circumstances a grade can be changed. Angela Anderson of the University Registrar had been asked at the January meeting to draft a policy for the committee. She proposed that the current language in the Undergraduate catalog be amended. The amended language was distributed to the committee prior to the meeting as part of the agenda. Newhard raised a concern that the new language might not be clear enough in the case in which the chair is the instructor of the course and unable to submit or change a grade. The committee pointed out that in that circumstance the acting chair of the Department would be responsible for submitting or changing grades.

Action Taken: Geissler moved, and Thomas seconded, that the amended language be approved by the committee. The committee unanimously approved that the new language be placed in the Undergraduate catalog.

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

Discussion: John Fletcher submitted to the committee another amended draft of a policy for applicants who may require special consideration or exceptions to policies. The committee expressed some concern that the language provided is not clear enough and mentioned that adding some specific examples of exceptions that warrant an holistic review of a student's application would be beneficial. Fletcher made the point that specific examples might be better suited for the website of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions rather than for an official document like the Undergraduate catalog. The committee asked Fletcher to include some examples of the type of application that the Office of Undergraduate Admissions considers for an holistic review. The committee agreed that the following items should be added to the policy: 1) The policy, perhaps in the preamble, should instruct the students who wish to be granted an holistic review of their application to contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to determine whether their case is a candidate for an holistic review. 2) The policy should state that students who wish to be granted special consideration for their application are required to show that in the most recent coursework they earned a GPA of 2.5 or above. 3) The policy should contain language to specify that the applicant must present documentation that shows that he/she can be successful at this institution. The committee also concluded that more information is needed to make sure that ECU is compliant with the UNC policy about faculty participation in examining applicants that require special consideration.

Action Taken: The item will reconsidered when an amended draft placed in the context of the Catalog is ready.

Assigned additional duties to: Fletcher agreed to present a new draft of the policy inserted in the appropriate place in the Catalog to the committee at its next meeting.

Agenda Item: Discussion Regarding a Policy on Residency Requirements.

Discussion: The committee has been asked to consider a revision to the current policy on residency requirements. Geissler explained to the committee what the current residency requirement is and how the proposed changes would benefit especially non-traditional students. Lowering the number of credit hours required for residency would allow transfer and returning students to finish their degree at ECU which the obvious benefit of increasing the number of ECU graduates and increasing the number of North Carolinians with a baccalaureate degree. The committee raised concerns that lowering the number of credit hours required for residency might impact the integrity of an ECU degree. The committee members discussed this point by presenting specific examples.

Action Taken: The committee will continue the discussion at the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm

NEXT MEETING: March 12, 2018