COMMITTEE: Admission and Retention Policies Committee

MEETING DATE: Monday, October 6, 2014

PERSON PRESIDING: Jonathan Morris

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Allison Danell, Michael Duffy, Katie Flanagan, Amy Frank

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Given, Andrew Bowers

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ACTIONS OF THE MEETING

Agenda Item: Approval of the Minutes

Action Taken: Minutes were approved with the following amendment: In future meetings, Andrew Bowers will be listed as an ex-officio member. Mia Leone will be listed as a guest.

Morris has made inquiries to fill the vacant position on the Admission and Retention Policies Committee and requests committee members to send names of faculty who might be interested in serving.

Agenda Item: Report from the Working Group on Fostering Undergraduate Student Success regarding proposed changes to ECU retention policies (Jayne Geissler).

Discussion: Geissler explained the current and newly proposed review process and penalties for students who fail to be in good academic standing in their coursework at the university. Two documents were provided that discussed existing policies and proposed policy changes that would take effect in fall 2015. Two additional handouts were distributed on percentages of students (sorted by class level and semester) who were on warning or probation. The document, Current Student Standings at East Carolina University, describes the current system by which a three-semester process, including warning, probation, and suspension, goes into effect for students who fail to meet the standards of good academic standing (cumulative GPA) and satisfactory academic progress (ratio of earned to attempted semester hours). The second document, Student Success Policies for Fall 2015, outlines the new system where students who either fall below a 2.0 GPA in two consecutive semesters or fail to maintain the ratio of 67% for completed to attempted hours will be suspended from the university for one semester. Under the new policy, students who earn at least a 2.5 in the semester they are on probation are automatically continued on probation for the next semester. The
forgiveness policy has been modified so that students may return after 2 years absence from the university and previous failing grades will not be computed into their new GPA upon readmission. Geissler pointed out that the newer system attempts to simplify the probationary and penalty process and align the academic progress standard more closely with financial aid eligibility. The committee considered raising the 67% ratio for earned to attempted hours (ratio accepted by NC General Administration) in order to align it more closely with financial aid qualification (Federal Government requires a ratio of 75%). There was discussion of the possible impact that poor advisement or a highly visible appeals process might have on the perceived success of the new academic progress standards.

Action Taken: The committee decided to table a vote recommending adoption of the new Student Success Policies document with an academic progress ratio higher than 67% until the November meeting. This will give members more time to consider the implications of the new policy standards.

Agenda Item: Report from the working group on Fostering Undergraduate Student Success regarding ARPC’s charge to review and craft policies on the following (John Given, Vice Chair of the Faculty): 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. 2) Determine what “appropriate student progress” is vis-à-vis the general education curriculum and whether ECU’s foundations requirements allow students to make such progress. 3) Determine what constitutes potentially “excessive” and “unnecessary” extra foundations requirements and whether ECU has programs that info such excessive requirements. 4) Determine what constitutes “excessive” admission requirements to majors and whether ECU has programs that impose such excessive requirements. 5) Determine how compliance with these regulations will be maintained into the future, including the triennial review call for in part three, section C.

Discussion: Given explained that he had written Jonathan Morris, Chair of the Admissions and Retention Policies Committee, on behalf of Andrew Morehead, to charge the committee with the task of developing policies and procedures related to the review and reporting of student progress and retention. The committee should review the policy and regulations documents for Fostering Undergraduate Student Success, and craft the required policies, deciding how compliance will be monitored. Given reviewed the five major considerations, listed above, emphasizing the monitoring process as well as the campus-wide demands and needs for student success. Committee members discussed the campus resources that could be utilized in this investigation.

Action Taken: Morris will work with Flanagan, Duffy, and Given, and come back to the committee in November with a plan of action.

New Business Item: To provide more precise language for the Grade of Incomplete and remove the discrepancies in definition and policies for Incomplete Grades that exist among the ECU Faculty Manual and the University Catalogs.
Action Taken: This actionable item will be placed on the agenda of a future meeting.

The committee adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 3, 2014 at 4:00 PM in Rawl Annex 142.