COMMITTEE: Admission and Retention Policies Committee
MEETING DATE: Monday, April 2, 2012
PERSON PRESIDING: Joseph Thomas
REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: David Durant, Amy Frank, Patrice Morris, Mary Nyangweso, Natalie Stewart
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jayne Geissler, Mike McCammon, Catherine Rigsby
GUESTS: Ann Marie Holder, Mark Sprague

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Student Academic Freedom

Discussion: The committee discussed a proposed addition to the Academic Regulations section of the undergraduate catalog, a policy on “Academic Freedom for Students.” After some discussion, the members felt that this statement belonged in “The University” section of the catalog. The committee also felt that this policy should be referenced in the Academic Freedom section of the ECU Faculty Manual. The wording of the statement was also revised.

Actions Taken: Statement was revised and approved as follows, for inclusion in The University section of the undergraduate catalog, just before the Academic Integrity Policy. The statement will be officially labeled as the “Student Academic Freedom Policy.” Proposed policy will be submitted to Faculty Senate for approval. In addition, the committee recommends that a link to this policy be added at the end of the Academic Freedom section (Part III) of the ECU Faculty Manual:

The University shall provide opportunity for its students to derive educational benefits through developing their intellectual capabilities, encouraging their increased wisdom and understanding, and enhancing their knowledge and experience applicable to the effective discharge of civic, professional, and social responsibilities. The University shall not abridge either the freedom of students engaged in the responsible pursuit of knowledge or their right to fair and impartial evaluation of their academic performance. All members of the university community shall share in the responsibility for maintaining an environment in which academic freedom flourishes and in which the rights and freedom of each member of the academic community are respected.

Assigned Additional Duties To: Joseph Thomas will present to Faculty Senate.

Agenda Item: Review undergraduate catalog for references to Nontraditional Students Admission Policy that may need to be revised.

Discussion: Several sections of the undergraduate catalog contain now-outdated references to the “Performance Based Admission Policy” or the “Special Readmission
Actions Taken: The committee voted to approve revisions that removed all references to the Performance Based Admission and Special Readmission (Forgiveness) policies from the undergraduate catalog. Proposed changes will be submitted to Faculty Senate for approval.

Additional Duties Assigned To: Joseph Thomas will present to Faculty Senate.

Agenda Item: Adding military-related duties to excused absence policy.

Discussion: There have been a number of instances where students in ROTC or serving in the Guard & Reserve have had to miss class time due to military training commitments, but have not been credited with an excused absence. The committee discussed whether to modify the university excused absence policy, which is outlined under “Attendance and Participation” in the Academic Regulations section of the Undergraduate Catalog, to include military training commitments as a criterion for allowing the Dean of Students to grant a university-excused absence.

Actions Taken: The committee voted to modify the Attendance and Participation portion of the Academic Regulations section of the Undergraduate Catalog as follows (added wording highlighted). Proposed change will be submitted to Faculty Senate for approval:

The Dean of Students may authorize a university-excused absence in the following situations:

1. Student participation in authorized activities as an official representative of the university (i.e. athletic events, delegate to regional or national meetings or conferences, participation in university-sponsored performances).
2. Participation in other activities deemed by the Dean of Students to warrant an excused absence, such as required military training.
3. An extreme personal emergency about which the student is unable to speak directly to the instructor.
4. The death of an immediate family member (such as parent, sibling, spouse or child).
5. Student participation in religious holidays.

Additional Duties Assigned To: Joseph Thomas will present to Faculty Senate.

Business Carried Over:

1. Discussion of new policy regarding completion of all graduation requirements, such as certification or internships, before graduation date.
2. Generating a new grade, such as FA, to indicate a student’s failure due to absence.

Adjourned: 5:00 PM