

MEETING DATE: Monday, April 1, 2013

PERSON PRESIDING: David Durant

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Katie Walsh, Allison Danell, Mary Nyangweso, Michael Duffy, Scott Curtis

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Fletcher, Jayne Geissler, John Given, Amy Frank

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: SGA representatives

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Presentation on Plus/Minus grading system by Taylor Bailey of SGA.

Discussion:

SGA representatives delivered a presentation on trends in grading since the implementation of the +/- grading system Fall 12. They stated that fifty percent fewer students received a GPA of 4.0 in Fall 12 versus Fall 11. The presenters indicated they appreciated the distinction in student achievement that is provided by some of the +/- grades, but the A- (without a balancing A+) in the grading system negatively impacts high-achieving students. The students also suggested that a C- still indicates "average" performance from a student and should be classified as a passing grade by university degree programs.

In summary, by presenting to our committee, the students from the SGA are hoping to start a dialog about removing the A- grade from the grading system.

Action Taken: None; several semesters' worth of data are still needed to assess the impact of the new +/- grading scale.

Assigned Additional Duties To: No one

Agenda Item: Resolution to Faculty Senate encouraging the development of a web-based module to educate first-year students on the importance of maintaining academic integrity.

Discussion: The committee supported moving forward with a resolution:

Whereas, educating students as to the importance of academic integrity is a major priority in academia, the Faculty Senate hereby encourages the Dean of Students Office to create an online academic integrity module that all incoming East Carolina University students will be required to complete before enrolling in classes for credit.

Actions Taken: This resolution will be presented to the Faculty Senate in the 2013-2014 academic year.

Additional Duties Assigned To: 2013-2014 chairperson.

Agenda Item: Changing the ECU Undergraduate Manual to require students to select a major by the end of sophomore year (60 credit hours).

Discussion: This idea was generated during an Academic and Appellate Committee Chairs Meeting, and a proposal was submitted for consideration by HCAS Associate Dean Michael Brown.

The committee members are aware of universities that may have published requirements such as those shared in the proposal. However, some of these universities do not prevent students from registering for further courses without a major declared; rather, students are directed towards advising resources as they continue to progress. ECU requires students to see advisors each semester to acquire registration PINs so students regularly seek advising resources.

The committee also discussed concerns regarding students who will seek “intermediate” majors. Students who aren’t accepted into a competitive major may need to take some courses before reapplying to that major, and shouldn’t be forced to declare a temporary substitute major.

This committee also discussed more specifics regarding the University Studies major under development. This major requires a 48 hour thematic core, which must be approved by a faculty oversight committee made up of 1 faculty from each college and 2 from HCAS. It is not a major designed for students to choose when all else fails.

Actions Taken: Further discussion among Academic and Appellate Committee Chairs may be needed.

Additional Duties Assigned To: David Durant

Adjourned: 5:05 PM