

## Faculty Senate Resolution #14-55

Approved by the Faculty Senate: April 15, 2014

Approved by the Chancellor: May 21, 2014

### Proposed Creation of a New **WE** Grade, Withdrawal with Extenuating Circumstances, and Revisions to Related Policies

UNC Policy Manual 400.1.5[R] can be found at

[http://www.northcarolina.edu/policy/index.php?pg=dl&id=s14927&inline=1&return\\_url=%2Fpolicy%2Findex.php%3Fpg%3Dtoc%26id%3D12](http://www.northcarolina.edu/policy/index.php?pg=dl&id=s14927&inline=1&return_url=%2Fpolicy%2Findex.php%3Fpg%3Dtoc%26id%3D12)

*Section C. Course Withdrawal.* states “Students are expected to complete all the courses for which they are registered at the close of the Course Adjustment Period...Campuses will develop policies that permit a student to withdraw from a course or courses at any time and without academic penalty for serious extenuating circumstances...Campuses may develop policies that allow students to withdraw from one or more courses without meeting the standards for withdrawals for extenuating circumstances.”

According to UNC-GA, ECU’s withdrawal policy for students withdrawing under non-extenuating circumstances must set a maximum number of withdrawals “up to four courses or up to 16 semester credit hours.” Additionally, ECU “must include a deadline for such withdrawal at a date no later than the completion of 60% of the term.”

The consequences of withdrawing (from a course or a term) are almost identical in either set of circumstances; only the effect on tuition surcharge differs, as summarized in the table below:

Summary of UNC Policy Manual 400.1.5[R] Requirements for Withdrawal Policies		
Effect of Withdrawals on:	Extenuating Circumstances	Non-Extenuating Circumstances
Tuition Surcharge	None	Course(s) count in surcharge calculation
Transcript	Withdrawal must be noted on Transcript	
GPA	None	
Attempted Hours	Course(s) count as attempted hours	
Financial Aid	Course(s) subject to all financial aid and SAP rules	

In keeping with ECU’s implementation of the regulations for [Fostering Undergraduate Student Success](#) (FUSS), the Committee was asked to evaluate ECU’s compliance with the above course withdrawal policies.

Following discussion, the Committee proposes the following:

1. Use the existing grade, **W**, for withdrawal under non-extenuating circumstances.
  - **W** can be used for course or term withdrawal.
  - Process to request **W** is handled by the Office of the Registrar.
2. Create a new grade, **WE**, withdrawal under extenuating circumstances.
  - **WE** can be used for course or term withdrawal.
  - Process to request **WE** is handled through the Dean of Students Office, and appeal (if requested) is routed to the Student Academic Appeals Committee.

3. Change the course withdrawal policy (non-extenuating circumstances) from a 4-course allotment to a 16-credit hour allotment, and eliminate pro-rating drops. This change would accommodate students who might need to withdraw from the entire term and use all allowed withdrawals simultaneously, students who have transferred to ECU and would otherwise not have access to as many withdrawals as a native student, and students who withdraw from courses that do not carry three credit hours.
4. Extend the course withdrawal period from 50% of the term to 60%, the maximum allowed by the UNC-GA policy. The extended period will give students time to fully assess course performance and seriously consider the ramifications of course withdrawal on students' progress and success (see UNC Policy Manual 400.1.5[R] Section II. A. Satisfactory Academic Progress and Good Academic Standing).