Minutes: 4 October, 2004
Admission and Retention Policies Committee

Members present (in no particular order): Fladenmuller, Grubb, Stewart, Nichols, Aziz, Avenarius, Levine, Seese, Parker, Sharer and Geissler. Ms. Amy Bissette (Sr. Associate Registrar) was also in attendance at the invitation of Dr. Seese

Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Discussion ensued regarding unexcused absences. The sentiment of the committee was that failure to attend class the first day of the semester should be considered an unexcused absence. Moreover, attendance policies of the instructor must be in the class syllabus and announced in class.

The committee discussed whether a maximum number or % of classes should be made a part of the university policy. The sentiment was that there should not be a university prescribed number of unexcused absences and it should be left to the discretion of the instructor. Yet, the committee also felt it important to recognize and make clear that these absences can be hurtful to a student’s performance and grade if part of the instructor’s policy.

It was pointed out that the definition of excused absences is contained on page 56 of the undergraduate catalog. Whatever is not on page 56 is therefore to be considered unexcused. Some on the committee responded that there should be a limit for excused absences and in many classes, absences, excused or not, would result in a negative or indeed vacuous learning experience. Therefore, if a student knows that absences are going to occur in a sizable number, it should be/is recommended that they seek another course where absences are not as critical to student performance.

Mr. David Barnes and Ms. Patty Manning were given time to argue for their position of changing the forgiveness policy and the computation of the overall GPA. Understandably they argued that the overall of their entire career does not reflect who they are today. Therefore they would like grades made before the forgiveness policy to not be counted in the computation of the overall GPA. They both acted surprised by this policy. Dr. Seese reproduced the letter that was sent to Mr. Barnes upon his re-entry in to ECU after the forgiveness policy. The letter informed him of the things of which he claimed to be unaware. The vote was unanimous to reject the request of policy revision.

Meeting concluded shortly after 4 pm.