ADMISSIONS RETENTION POLICIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 3, 2005

Members present: Larry Seese, Frederic Fladenmuller, Shahnaz Aziz, Carol Nichols, Jayne Geissler, Lee Grubb, Wendy Sharer, John Kerbs, and Randy Parker

Guests: Donald Joyner, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Services; Angela Anderson, the University Registrar.

Chair, Larry Seese called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Larry Seese informed the committee that the nontraditional admissions policy was pulled from the agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting on October 10th. He postponed discussion of this item and moved to the topic of implementing a plus/minus grading system.

Chair Seese called on Angela Anderson to address the feasibility of instituting a plus/minus grading system. Ms. Anderson requested that if a decision was made in favor of converting to plus/minus grades, that implementation be delayed until the SCT Banner system goes live in 2007, or preferably in 2008. She explained that adopting this process with the current main frame system would be time consuming and could result in the delay of the Banner go live date. A change of this nature would affect the Cashier’s Office and the Financial Aid Office, as well as, the Registrar’s Office and the Admissions Office transfer articulation database. Ms. Anderson stated that it would require 2 full time employees at least 6 months to make the change on our current system. Also, it would require two programmers to be removed from the Banner project to implement the grading changes programming. Such a change in grading would be less labor intensive with the Banner system. It will also help insure that the “go live” date occurs on time.

Ms. Anderson stated UNC at Greensboro will institute an A+ grade in November, but equate it to a 4.0. Mr. Joyner and Ms. Anderson suggested that students might find it harder to stay off of probation with a plus/minus system. Mr. Joyner added that the average freshman has a 2.2 GPA. Approximately 1,500 of the freshmen are under a 2.0 GPA. Jayne Geissler mentioned that the largest impact would occur at the end of the freshman’s first semester. Ms. Anderson said that she surveyed the Registrars from the other UNC institutions and that 10 of 16 were using a plus/minus system. UNC at Charlotte switched from the plus/minus system back to the non-plus/minus system. Randy Parker requested that Ms. Anderson find out the reason for the switch back to a non-plus/minus system. John Kerbs stated that it would be interesting to inquire about the short-term effects and the long-term effects of a shift to a plus/minus system. Randy Parker agreed that a longitudinal tracking would be informative and aid in the committees’ discussion. Mr. Parker expressed concern that the plus/minus system could be an additional hurdle for the freshmen.

Chair Seese requested that the committee table the discussion for today pending more information from the academic departments. There were some questions about whether or not the Graduate School would follow the same plus/minus system.

Chair Seese moved to the topic of English 1200. Last year, the committee voted on this issue. However, nothing was written and presented to the Faculty Senate for a vote. The
committee agreed to edit Item #1 from the minutes of December 6, 2004 to the form of a proposal for the Faculty Senate to review. Mr. Joyner clarified that this change should be editorial and a clear “how to” rule on determining General Education stipulations, for the Registrar’s check list for graduation, and the Admission’s Office transfer of credit. Mr. Joyner did not think it was necessary to add this to the catalog.

The committee voted unanimously for the editorial change. The item will be placed on the Faculty Senate Agenda for December.

Chair Seese turned attention to the Nontraditional Admissions Policy. Seese explained that although the committee voted to remove the current Nontraditional Admissions Policy from the catalog last year, Dr. Powell, Director of Admissions, wanted to replace it with a new policy. A draft of a new Nontraditional policy was presented to the committee for discussion and modification. After minor editing (see attachment), the committed voted to approve, and it was placed on the November agenda for the Faculty Senate.

Chair Seese informed the committee that Mary Louise Antieau, Director of Student Conflict Resolution would be the guest at the November committee meeting concerning an item of Academic Integrity. Chair Seese mentioned that the committee would decide whether or not to address this topic.

Chair Seese adjourned the meeting at 5:13 pm.