Admission and Retention Policies Committee
April 4, 2005
Minutes

Members Present: Gary Levine (Chair), Wendy Sharer, Larry Seese, Shahnaz Aziz, Natalie Stewart, Christine Avenarius, Jayne Geissler.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 PM. Stewart agreed to serve as secretary for the day and take the minutes.

Gary passed out a packet containing the minutes from past meetings, various emails he had received regarding degrees with distinction, and a chart comparing how other universities deal with degrees of distinction.

Minutes from the previous meeting on March 7, 2005 were approved. Minutes from the open forum on March 21, 2005 were approved.

The committee members discussed each email Gary had received pertaining to the awarding of degrees of distinction. In their next meeting, the Faculty Senate wants a report from the committee on this issue. Christine Avenarius agreed to represent the committee at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Gary passed out a copy of the "forgiveness policy", which the committee then discussed. The committee's general consensus was that the policy was difficult to understand. The issue of how to keep the policies simple, yet fair, arose. Some members suggested that the "degrees with distinction policy" be simplified, perhaps incorporating some statute of limitations for those students who are truly restarting their careers. Other institutions' policies were discussed. In discussing the ECU policies, the committee seemed to agree that many of the existing policies (e.g., forgiveness, transfer policy) directly affect and relate to the current "degrees with distinction policy". The committee agreed that it would be difficult to address one policy without addressing the others.

Wendy Sharer motioned that our report to the Faculty Senate reflect a need to investigate other policies, such as transfer, grade replacement, and forgiveness, before making a decision about degrees with distinction. The motion was seconded and more discussion ensued.

The committee agreed that the new degree with distinction policy should address issues, such as grade point numbers, and calculating transfer grades into the GPA. The new policy should also work clearly and simply, and be consistent with other policies.

The transfer policy with regards to degrees with distinction was discussed. Larry Seese raised the issue that calculating the transfer GPA in determining degrees with distinction might actually raise a students GPA if they attended a college that tended to give higher grades overall. How transfer credits worked with the "forgiveness policy" was also discussed, and there was some confusion about why students couldn't return under the "forgiveness policy" if they had attended another university. Jayne Geissler suggested that we invite Jerry Clayton to a future meeting to explain the reasoning behind that.

The above motion of reporting to the Faculty Senate the need to address other policies before making a change to the current "degree with distinction policy" was passed unanimously.

Gary Levine suggested that in future meetings the committee consider electing a permanent secretary or ask the Faculty Senate to appoint one. Gary also recommended that we, as a committee, elect a chairman and a vice-chairman, so the chairman could be essentially training the vice-chairman for the
following year. As it stands now, Gary Levine has served his term on the committee, and the committee no longer has a chair.

Gary thanked everyone for their work and support throughout the year.

The motion to adjourn was passed.

The last meeting of the year adjourned at 5:10 PM.