Admission & Retention Policies Committee
September 12, 2005
Minutes

Member present: Frederic Fladenmuller, Larry Seese, Shahnaz Aziz, Natalie Stewart, Wendy Sharer, John Kerbs, Jayne Geissler, Carol Nichols, Lee Grubb

Guest: David Wilson-Okamura (English)

Chair Larry Seese called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Minutes of the August meeting were approved with the correction of Dr. Seese’s name.

Discussion concerning the admission of “nontraditional” students (also referred to as University College) was initiated. Carol Nichols reiterated that although the University College program was eliminated last year, the admissions policy is still in effect. Committee members discussed that students admitted under this admission policy have other options and would be better served in the future by first attending a community college. Students could then transfer to East Carolina University upon meeting the requirements for transfer students. The motion was made, seconded, and passed to remove “Nontraditional students” category in the current 2005-2006 (p. 29) and future catalogs. Chair Seese indicated that he and Don Joyner will request to present the elimination of this admission policy to the faculty senate at the October 11 meeting.

Discussion then proceeded to the revised attendance policy that was presented to faculty senate during the April 19, 2005 meeting. During that meeting, the faculty senate voted to return the policy to the Admission and Retention Committee requesting a revision to paragraph 3 by removing the 10% provision. The committee discussed removing the 10% wording in the first sentence of paragraph 3, but retaining the second mention of the 10% provision in paragraph 3. Sharer suggested the third paragraph read as follows:

“Excused absences should not lower a student’s course grade, provided that the student, in a manner determined by the instructor, is able to make up the work that has been missed and is maintaining satisfactory progress in the course. If a student anticipate[s] that he or she may miss more than 10% of class meeting time as a result of university-excused absences, the student is required to discuss this matter with the instructor at the beginning of the semester and may be advised to drop the course.”

The motion was made, seconded and passed that the revised attendance document be resubmitted to faculty senate during the October 11 meeting.
Seese volunteered to present the revised attendance policy to faculty senate with an explanation of the 10% provision in paragraph 3.

Attention then turned to discussion on the revision to the grading system and the consideration of using a plus/minus system (eg., B+, B, B-). Seese presented to the committee that several UNC schools including NC State, UNC-Wilmington, UNC-Greensboro, and UNC-Chapel Hill use some form of the plus/minus system. Guest David Wilson-Okamura explained the benefits that a plus/minus system provide. The first benefit impacts grade compression by allowing for a wider grade distribution and better distinction of quality work. In addition, he suggested that a plus/minus system is a better reflection of a student’s work. For example, there is a big difference between a B+ and a B-. ECU’s current system of a B does not reflect that difference. Committee members discussed further advantages and disadvantages. Due to the lengthy meeting, discussion on the grading system was tabled until the next committee meeting, which will be held on Monday, October 3.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne Geissler
Secretary for the day