

COMMITTEE: Admissions & Retention Policies

MEETING DATE: September 14, 2020

PERSON PRESIDING: Eli Hvastkovs

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jason Mose, David Hisle, Stephanie Jung-in Bae, Joshua Gardner, Michael Baker, Amy Frank

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Angela Anderson, Steven Asby, Cynthia Wagoner, Stan Eakins

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rachel Baker

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Changes to the Academic Integrity Violation policy.

Discussion: Eli Hvastkovs gave the following updates to the committee:

- 1) We can't do anything with that right now because an attorney wants to put it in the university policy manual.
- 2) The goal is for faculty members to have a voice in deciding what constitutes as an AIV. Previously: A faculty member would inform the student of a suspected violation. Evidence would be presented at a meeting with an outside observer. Faculty member would make a decision and submit documentation to OSRR.
- 3) Attorney wants faculty members to be required to contact students first with accusation prior to having any formal documentation with OSRR. Important to keep the policy in faculty hands.
- 4) Attorney wants everything to be uploaded to OSRR and then have it be mostly out of faculty hands.
- 5) We have to get it back from the attorneys and Puri to see what we need to do.

Other commentary:

Amy Frank: Currently, a form can be filed before contacting student to get the violation on record. We want the process to be as simple as possible.

Jason Mose: Goal was to make it straightforward but not too onerous for faculty. Informal meetings not desired by lawyers in the event that further action is taken, but faculty prefer having this process in place.

Action Taken: Wait for policy documents to get back from attorneys and Puri

Assigned additional duties to: N/A

Agenda Item: Office Hour Policy

Discussion: None; Discussion tabled for now.

Action Taken: None

Agenda Item: Honors designation for graduates

Discussion: Angela Anderson provided an overview of the issue to the committee:

- 1) A student appealed to student appellate committee, which did not hear the case. It was determined that this committee needs to review the policy.
- 2) We have now had three students asking to appeal this policy.
- 3) ECU policy: Anything you've ever taken counts. Looked at other UNC system schools and schools in border states. We are in the minority in terms of transfer credits being included in determination of honors classification. Grades from out of the US are not commonly counted.
- 4) Changing the policy may help to improve transfer enrollment.
- 5) Other schools require few hours at that university to get a degree with distinction.
- 6) Another student contacted Registrar's office today: one hour short of the 60 credit (1/2 of credits) requirement.
- 7) NC state is using the minimum required hours from the university for SACS.
- 8) Students don't typically know this policy until later.
- 9) Students are sometimes just one class short but it's often more.

Subsequent discussion:

- **Steven Asby:** Transfer students don't understand why if they meet the requirements for the degree, they shouldn't have the honors designation.
- **Stephanie Bae:** We want a number of required hours that will work for a while (a decade maybe).
- **Angela Anderson:** Thoughts have changed over time. Used to be in favor of holding students to the same standard. Over time as we have worked with more students in various situations, thoughts have become more sympathetic. 60 may be too much of a hurdle, especially for Partway Home students. Changing the policy may help to build the alumni base.
- **Amy Frank:** Military students work very hard to keep GPA up and often have many transfer credits. Maybe we should go with residency requirement. (30 hours)
- **Eli Hvastkovs:** Maybe something in between (42?).
- **Angela Anderson:** Maybe add some other kind of degree with distinction. Registrar's office would have much less work to do if the policy was changed, but is not advocating for it for this reason.
- **Eli Hvastkovs:** 2 issues: Count everything ever taken and number of hours required.
- **Jason Mose:** Should we distinguish between courses taken 5 years ago and courses taken elsewhere while they are an ECU student?
- **Steven Asby:** Biology has an intake form too.
- **Stan Eakins:** Students have an option to test out of courses. We require some number of hours to come in and finish a degree. Would it make sense to make that minimum number the number for graduation with distinction?
- **Cynthia Wagoner:** Many students who graduate with distinction will have done well in both places.
- **Jason Mose:** Concern is that students may take courses that are challenging at ECU online elsewhere to try to get a higher grade. Cherry picking courses to maximize GPA.
- **Stephanie Bae:** Students may choose to take courses elsewhere for other reasons.
- **Jason Mose:** Should students be punished for things that happened a long time ago even if they are successful at ECU?
- **Stephanie Bae:** 30 hours would make ECU competitive for transfer students.
- **Stan Eakins:** Some number that is not a random number would be nice. What do students expect?
- **Angela Anderson:** Students understand the 25% of degree requirements. They feel like they've been misled when it comes to the requirements for degrees with distinction.

- **Stan Eakins:** That's what we want to avoid. Shouldn't the number of hours that they need to graduate match the number of hours required for a degree of distinction?
- **Amy Frank:** 25% rule will make it consistent and easy to understand.
- **Steven Asby:** Change would be more friendly to transfer students like those with associate's degree.

Motions to adopt 25% of degree credits requirement for distinction and to use ECU GPA only in determining honors designation were advanced, seconded, and approved with no objections.

Supplemental discussion after approval of motions:

- **Amy Frank:** Will the new policy be retroactive?
- **Angela Anderson:** It will in effect be going forward. We should do it by graduating class.

Action Taken:

- **Motion:** Adopt 25% of degree credits requirement for distinction.
 - Seconded.
 - Approved with no objections
- **Motion:** Use ECU GPA only in determining honors designation.
 - Seconded.
 - Approved with no objections.

Assigned additional duties to: Eli Hvastkovs – Wordsmith resolutions and try to have to Rachel Baker by 9/25 to add to agenda for next faculty meeting. Draft needs to be approved by then so senators can review.; Angela Anderson – Wordsmith catalog language

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm

NEXT MEETING: October 5, 2020

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Updates regarding Academic Integrity Violation Regulation; Office Hour Policy