

**COMMITTEE:** Admissions & Retention Policies

**MEETING DATE:** March 8, 2021

**PERSON PRESIDING:** Eli Hvastkovs

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

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Purificación Martínez, Rachel Baker

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## **ACTIONS OF MEETING**

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Agenda Item: Approval of minutes from 2/8/2021 meeting

Discussion: None

Action Taken: Minutes of 2/8/2021 meeting approved.

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Agenda Item: Update on the P/F policy

Discussion:

Eli Hvastkovs: Chancellor Mitchelson wants a P/F policy. Students want it was well. Our resolution passed but it was closer than usual.

Chair Martínez: Met w/ chancellor to discuss options for P/F. Walked him through options. He indicated that he favored the one that he announced today but needed to consult with provost and Angela. Got back to her and said that he is willing to recommend that policy. He indicated that he prefers to have his policy of choice in place before the new chancellor takes office. Said that if some faculty members are willing to work on the policy, he is willing to work with them.

Eli Hvastkovs:: New policy doesn't offer much relief to people who do poorly in a course but still pass. Maybe we can affect the policy if anyone feels strongly about it.

Stephanie Bae: Disappointed that all of the work that we did wasn't used in the new policy.

Chair Martínez: Since the committee made decision not to do pass/fail, this decision was communicated to the provost, not the chancellor. Puri spoke with several parties before the faculty senate meeting and did not get any sense that the committee's recommendation would be reversed by the chancellor. Knew the students were in favor of p/f. Conversations with provost & VC for student affairs did not indicate it would be overturned or she would have brought it back to the committee.

Jason Mose: Most disappointing thing is that there was no deliberation by faculty about policy (e.g. data supporting the decision). He has the right as a chancellor to do those things but our work was not respected enough to send it back to committee.

Eli Hvastkovs: What basically went forward was the UNC-G policy. It was a contentious meeting.

Steven Asby: We need to have a conversation on what we can rebut. D's are passing. What can we do to provide Ron with info/opportunity to make the policy a little bit better?

Chair Martínez: Do we still have the chance to make a recommendation?

Angela Anderson: Per conversation earlier today, Ron is interested in hearing feedback about policy re: D grades.

Steven Asby: This is not good policy because it doesn't do enough to help students who are struggling in many classes.

Eli Hvastkovs: 100% agree. P/F should help kids who had a bad semester.

Steven Asby: Some students are taking 7-8 courses so only being able to use it for 2 courses may not be helpful.

Stephanie Bae: Bad taste in mouth from feeling overridden. We had good conversation & discussion about this. The point of shared governance is to work together and he didn't work with us.

David Hisle: What would our response look like?

Eli Hvastkovs: Can draft a letter summarizing discussion and saying that this sets a bad precedent.

Chair Martínez: He is aware of what he did. Intend to talk about this with new chancellor as an example of a failed system of shared governance. Other one was block scheduling.

Eli Hvastkovs: We could share the letter with Philip.

Chair Martínez: It would be a good idea to share the letter with both of them.

Stan Eakins: Willing to give chancellor a pass on this but we do need to make sure to communicate concerns to the new chancellor. He disagrees with us but there was a lot of disagreement amongst ourselves. Have this conversation with the new chancellor because Mitchelson is on the way out anyway.

Eli Hvastkovs: We can say what we did, which he kind of ignored, but we can do it nicely. We can call out a limitation of the P/F policy. Weird that a student with a D gets left behind but students with C- can move on.

Jason Mose: Letter should not be confrontational. It should lay out the logic of our discussion. Highlighting flaws can be helpful and it would also be good to document the logic behind our preferences for future reference.

Chair Martínez: Clarification: Any program can decide not to accept pass/fail. C- as the minimum to get a pass was something I proposed in order to address some concerns she thought that she had heard from advisors. Thought this was a threshold that gave students some benefits while also addressing some concerns. Was advised that other UNC policies have not included C- as pass. Two things were added: Students can withdraw without it counting against allowed withdraws and can grade replace without it counting against allowed grade replacements. Leeway to grade replace or drop course.

Steven Asby: Population served may not be helped by this policy. Would prefer if D counts as passing so that it wouldn't help for them to have to take a D to get credit and move on while lowering their GPA.

Josh Gardner: Proposed policy from chancellor doesn't sit well with me. Also dislikes that the committees recommendation and the faculty vote.

Chair Martínez: He may have had his mind made up.

Stephanie Bae: Interesting that he doesn't want his successor to have to deal with it. New chancellor will have to deal with any fallout from this decision. Feel like we need to state that we made a recommendation in the letter, it passed, and was then overridden.

Steven Asby: Only getting it for two courses limits misuse but would prefer a different policy that would be more helpful to the average student. Consideration of lower grades would be more helpful.

Chair Martínez: Question: Provost has seen this policy and agrees with it. Frustrated about miscommunication re: C- grades. Chancellor gave policy to provost and provost agreed. Extremely frustrating and confusing to have to revise policies put into place by administration. There are multiple broken channels of communication outside of the committee. Would like to get a better understanding of what to do in order to ensure that this does not happen again.

Eli Hvastkovs: Nothing much we can do in terms of communication if Ron had his mind made up. His view was influenced by student requests. Communication is OK but administration did what they wanted to.

Chair Martínez: Faculty have said that once students are at the D- threshold, they would abandon the course. C- threshold should require them to work harder.

Steven Asby: Students have talked frequently about how bad instruction is. Just want a policy that will help the most people.

Vote: Most favor motion to recommend that Ds be included in "pass".

Chair Martínez: Thanks to committee for their effort.

Action Taken: Eli will write letter to communicate concerns.

Assigned additional duties to: N/A

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Agenda Item: Discuss and vote on AIV policy changes

Discussion:

Eli: Would not have to go back before faculty senate because no major changes proposed.

Action Taken: Plan to vote at next meeting.

Assigned additional duties to: All members: Review document in preparation for vote.

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The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

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**NEXT MEETING**: April 5, 2021

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED**: Discuss and vote on AIV policy changes, Zero hour class policy