

Minutes of the  
Faculty Senate Academic Policy Committee (APC)  
March 16, 2013 - 3:00 pm in 206Mann Hall

**Senators Present:** Co-chair Warren Jasper, Roy Borden, Jane Lubischer, Beverly Tyler, Jeannette Moore, Richard Spontak

**Unable to attend:** Dimitris Argyropoulos, Harald Ade, Ann Penrose

**Guests:** Terri L. Lomax (Vice Chancellor for Research), Louis Hunt (Vice Provost and University Registrar), Michelle Johnson (Associate Registrar), Shawn Smith (Assistant Vice Provost)

1. A motion to approve the Minutes of the January 29<sup>th</sup> APC meeting was seconded and the motion was approved by voice vote.
2. **Title IV issue.** Modification of the Student Information System (SIS) to require additional information from instructors when a grade of “F” is being assigned. The additional information is about the student’s attendance in the class to comply with Federal Title IV regulations regarding student financial aid. The new grading options will be:
  - a. “FC” Failing grade (no further action required)
  - b. “FQA” Failing grade and they stopped attending class 60% into the semester (pull down menu on approx. dates when student stopped attending class)
  - c. “FNA” Failing grade and the student never attended or participated in even a single class. (no further action required)

On the transcript only the grade of “F” will appear, and all these grades will be treated the same as far as GPA calculations are concerned. A grade of “F” in conjunction with attendance data is needed (in a timely manner) for students receiving federal grant money in that they must repay grant money and that NSCU not incur a liability.

**Recommendations:** The APC approves this change and recommends that the faculty be informed of these changes as soon as possible through emails, faculty meetings, new hire seminars, etc.

3. **Transcript grades.** The issue is that we now have a number of undergraduate curricula that require minimum grades for satisfaction of degree requirements (e.g. grade of B or better is required in a course in order to satisfy the degree requirement). Transfer students bring in a grade of TR for all transferred courses, regardless of the grade earned at their previous institution. In order to make it clear to students and advisors why a transferred courses does (or does not) meet a degree requirement with a minimum grade condition, it is proposed to replace the TR grade with specific transfer grades that represent what the student actually earned at their previous institution. The proposed new grades would be: TC-, TC, TC+, TB-, ...,TA+. These transfer grades would continue to function the same way as the current TR grade and would not impact the student’s NC State University GPA.

**Action:** A motion to adopt these changes was approved (6-0). The APC recommends that the faculty be informed of these changes as soon as possible through emails, faculty meetings, and new hire seminars.

4. **Closure on Student Senate Resolution issue of Chancellor’s List.** There was discussion from the APC on the issue of having an additional Chancellor’s List. Although UNC does not have such a list, most of the other UNC system universities do as well as other

Universities around the country. Given that students with a 4.0 are honored as Valedictorians at graduation, and that academic honors such as cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude are conveyed to high achieving students, it was felt by the APC and the Registrar that no further action or endorsement was warranted by the Faculty Senate. As such, we take no position on the Student Senate Resolution.

#### **5. Major changes in wording of the *Research Policy* POL 10.00.02.**

Terri Lomax, Vice Chancellor for Research proposed changes to the Research Policy for the University. Continuing with a process initiated with the previous chancellor, efforts are underway to streamline and review all the Policies, Regulations, and Rules which govern NC State University. The previous Research Policy was last revised on November 21, 1997. The old 12 page document was shortened to about 4 pages, with consultation with legal, to achieve the following goals:

1. Remove flowery and superfluous language
2. Remove verbiage that was not deemed a policy that could be better addressed as a Regulation or Rule
3. Align the Research Policy with that of the General Administration and the overall UNC system

A few grammatical errors were pointed out as well as the need to identify the “President” as in section 3.2 as the “President of the UNC System”. A minority opinion was that certain exclusions regarding weapons development, as well as research in chemical and biological weapons should be explicitly stated as was in section 7.2.

A motion to adopt the document as written passed on a vote of 5-1.

#### **6. Committee Reports**

**Evaluation of Teaching** (J. Moore): Research-based information will be forthcoming on methods for increasing student response rates on course/instructor evaluations, and this information will be on the Office of Faculty Development website. Pending changes to the online ClassEval include: Development of Mobile Apps so students can use their tablets or phones to fill out evals; the ability to save and later finish an evaluation (which would be automatically submitted at ClassEval closure time if the student did not go back to submit it); and potentially including the instructor's picture with the evaluation so students would be more certain of who they were evaluating. Faculty use of incentives (such as adding points to all students' final scores if the desired percentage for response rate is achieved) is not allowed at N.C. State University and is a violation of University Policy.

**UCCC** (R. Borden): The College of Education now requires a C (as opposed to a C-) for many courses due to revised licensure requirements.

#### **7. Adjourn**