

Academic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
August 30, 2017

Present: PK Lim, Darby Orcutt, Greg Young, Sarah Ash

Absent: Sid Thakur, Neal Parker, Helmut Hergeth, Robert Hayes, Deniz Eseryl, Mary Beth Hawkins, Sophia Katharioiu, David Auerbach

Guest: Roby Sawyers, Faculty Athletic Representative

Background:

Earlier this year, the Faculty Academic Committee (FAC) of the Council on Athletics considered policies that might restrict or require a reporting or monitoring mechanism for at-risk student athletes who choose to take courses (primarily DE courses) at other institutions. While DE courses may be entirely appropriate for student athletes as they are for the regular student body, there are special risks to the institution if student athletes enroll in these courses (particularly without knowledge of their advisors), and if these classes are not appropriately rigorous or monitored (especially relative to the proctoring of exams).

This came to the attention of the FAC as a result of a specific case, which, while it was fixed via advising, brought attention to the fact that policies regarding the transferring in of credits from other institutions were written in the early 1990s, before the dramatic increase in DE course availability.

Discussion:

It became clear that trying to make a distinction between DE and face-to-face classes when evaluating transfer credits is not possible because transcripts do not provide that level of detail. This can only be “regulated” at the level of advising.

In addition, it is problematic to make the assumption that DE classes are somehow “less than” those taught face-to-face, especially since NC State itself offers many on-line courses.

It was determined that Athletics can deal with these issues locally, for example requiring that students in DE courses offered through other institutions have their exams proctored at NC State.

The committee’s discussion then turned toward the regulation on transfer credits itself: <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-30-03/>. In particular, the committee wondered about requiring that only 25% of a student’s credits need come from NC State courses in order to be eligible to receive an NCSU degree. A decision was made to invite Louis Hunt to a future meeting to provide some background regarding the genesis of this number, as well as data regarding the number of students to whom this might apply in any given year. There was also interest in learning the process by which transfer courses are vetted, which Louis could also likely address.