

Faculty Senate Academic Policy Committee (APC) Minutes  
November 23, 2013 - convened at 3:00 pm in 125 Polk Hall

**Senators Present:** Montse Fuentes, Co-chair; Roy Borden, Jim Knopp, Patricia Morgado, Nancy Penrose, Beverly Tyler (on sabbatical).

**Unable to attend:** Jeannette Moore, Co-chair; Harald Ade (on sabbatical), Rich Spontak.

**Guest:** Michelle Johnson

1. Topic of discussion: Fostering Student Success policy

Michelle Johnson presented to the APC the proposed REG revisions due to Transmittal 83. Based on an assessment of Transmittal 83, NC State is in compliance with sections I, IV, V and VI of the transmittal letter. R&R is heading the effort to bring NCSU into compliance with section II and Dr. Mike Mullen and DASA are heading the effort to bring NCSU into compliance with section III.

The initial assessment report is due Fall 2014 (3 year cycle, next assessment due on 2017). The plan is to have the revision and new policies approved and made public no later than May 2014. Right now the effort is to set the new policies, rather than the process to implement the changes.

Michelle presented revisions to the following REGs:

- 1.) Add/Drop
- 2.) Withdrawal
- 3.) Undergraduate Grade Exclusion

A. The first discussion was on the topic of *grade exclusion*.

The recommendation presented to the committee was to have 2 courses allowed for exclusion (it could be up to 4). The committee approved this recommendation.

The second recommendation was to eliminate current policy 1.3 “grade exclusions must be posted prior to a student applying for graduation”.

The APC committed discussed this topic, it was suggested not to remove sentence 1.3 regarding grade exclusions on senior year, since that will offer students a mechanism to manipulate their GPA the last semester.

However, it was mentioned that regardless students have the opportunity to manipulate their GPA at other stages.

The APC presented a motion to –not remove 1.3

Motion: 4 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstain.

The APC concluded that NCSU should not encourage and facilitate mechanisms for students to manipulate their GPA.

B. The next topic of discussion was *Adding and Dropping courses*

The first recommendation was to limit to 16 hours the withdrawals after census day, rather than 4 courses. APC approved this recommendation.

In 2.2 there is change of census date, which has been mandated by UNC-GA.

Transmittal 83 is only for undergraduate students, it was discussed if the suggested new policies should also impact graduate students.

The dynamics at the graduate level are quite different, there could be advantages of imposing the same regulation for graduate students. For instance, graduate students sign up for more classes than they intend to take, just to sample few and then determine which ones to choose, that ends making very difficult to control enrollment and some classes end with very low enrollment.

Despite potential benefits on imposing the policy for graduate students. The recommendation from the committee was not to move forward with new policies for graduate students without consulting with director of graduate programs. To make sure proper feedback was received.

It was suggested to introduce computing feedback to students, when they self-drop. To alert the students of the consequences.

New wording for 3.3.4 was recommended, it was suggested to make clear the type of enrollment in that sentence, the current wording does not specify if the enrollment is at NCSU or in the course (for course repeats). A suggestion was to write it as "to continue enrollment as an NCSU student and in the course".

C. The final topic of discussion was *Withdrawal from the University*

There was an extensive discussion about the process to handle the official withdrawals after census day, to determine the potential role of R&R, versus Counseling, and to determine the involvement of the college. It was suggested to make the forms available online, to make the process more efficient. However, at this point is difficult to determine the best way to proceed, probably some more discussion between R&R and Counseling should take place to present a viable proposal with regard to the best venue to handle in the most effective way withdrawals after census day. This topic will be discussed and presented again to the APC.

2. A recommendation was made to have Michelle Johnson talking to the Faculty Senate, to inform all Senators of the new policies and to get valuable feedback before making public the policies.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm

