

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

October 13, 2020

Zoom Meeting from 1-2 p.m.

Members Present: Keith Goyne (Chair), Robin Panneton, Susan Sumner, Keith Thompson

Members Absent: Kimberly Smith

Guests Present: Rick Sparks

Recorder: Arlice Banks, *Executive Administrative Assistant, College of Natural Resources and Environment*

Keith Goyne, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

New Business:

I. Desired Committee Outcomes

- a. Develop a policy on Academic Relief (AR)
- b. Terminate practice of eliminating course from student transcripts
- c. Establish a common AR declaration form and process to be followed on campus

II. AR Challenges

- a. Which campus entities should be permitted to initiate AR requests?
- b. How to define criteria for AR? Identify issues to be solved and allow this info to dictate course of action.
- b. Lack of consistent process used by campus authorities for recommending AR
- c. Students taking advantage of AR in inequitable ways

III. Creating an AR Policy

- a. Create broad AR policy applying relief to all courses during a semester; not negotiable except under unusual circumstances
- b. Establish a grade designator to indicate the granting of AR on student transcripts
- c. AR should not be restricted to one-time use only.
- d. Re-evaluate the number Ws that students can use and time during the semester when a W can be used (involves evaluation of a separate policy)

IV. Timeline of Completion

- a. Anticipating questions and addressing ancillary issues that may be raised during the approval process would use time efficiently while drafting an AR policy.
- b. The AR policy should contain feedback from constituencies. Time to obtain and incorporate this feedback should be considered when trying to produce a product by the end of the semester.
- c. Avoid drafting revisions to other policies impacting AR until after a review of the specific ways students use AR is completed.

V. Action Items

- a. Discussed obtaining data showing many students have W's left after completing 60 credit hours, when students typically withdraw from a semester, and if a student had used a W at any point, would it have prevented them from being suspended

VI. Student Committee Member

- a. Invite both undergraduate nominees for inclusion
- b. Committee sees no need for graduate student member since the AR policy to be developed will not pertain to graduate students

Meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm.