

Report of the Educational Affairs Committee to the University Council
September 25, 2013

The Educational Affairs Committee has met three times since our last report at the February 2013 University Council Meeting. The Petitions Subcommittee has met monthly since then and has reviewed 175 petitions: approving 108 and denying 34 (a number of those were overturned on appeal to President Adams) (approved/denied numbers do not include results of 9/23/2013 Petitions meeting).

The Petitions Subcommittee will begin reporting any allegations of sexual misconduct included in student appeals to the Equal Opportunity Office in compliance with Title IX. Effective last spring, a report will be made to Janyce Dawkins when the Petitions Subcommittee receives any appeals which involve an allegation of sexual misconduct on a student while at the university or an alleged assailant who is a student, staff, or faculty member at the university. The appeals information on the Educational Affairs Committee website now includes a statement regarding a student's privacy in matters of Title IX reporting.

Hardship withdrawals are allowed under current policy, and the Office of Student Support Services is able to process hardship withdrawals from courses only in the semester that the hardship occurs. Any hardship withdrawals requested after the semester has concluded must be appealed to the Educational Affairs Committee. EAC has requested that the Office of Student Support Services report to EAC on the number of hardship withdrawals approved by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

In 2012, the Office of Student Support Services approved complete hardship withdrawals for 234 students. Thirty-six partial hardship withdrawals (not all courses in the semester) were approved. Nine requests for hardship withdrawals were denied.

A number of appeals have been made arising from confusion about the contribution of PE to the graduation credits. We would like to remind all of you that the 1 credit earned for completing the PE requirement does not count towards the 120 credits required for graduation.

This year we have begun a review of the academic calendar and graduation honors. As I have reported to this Council in the past, the % of UGA students graduating with honors has almost doubled, increasing from 20% to 40%, since 1999. That trend is evident for all the schools and colleges. The EAC has begun looking into possible changes to graduation honors criteria and we welcome your input.

Also, as I have explained to this Council in the past, the Registrar has explained that our academic calendar is becoming increasingly difficult for her to develop due to several imposed restrictions by the university and the Board of Regents. EAC is discussing possible changes to the academic calendar to assist with these increasing demands. Again, we welcome your input.

Last spring, EAC brought to Council, and Council approved, a revision in the drop/add period for fall and spring semesters to allow 5 days of drop/add for all students. That brings us to today's action item, to update drop/add periods for summer sessions following a number of faculty complaints, focused primarily on the summer short sessions.

The committee approved a proposal to revise the drop and add registration policy for the summer sessions. For Extended and Thru session courses, both drop and add periods begin on the first day of classes and extend through midnight of the fifth class day (business days). For Maymester, first and second session courses, both drop and add periods begin on the first day of classes and extend through midnight of the first class day.

“Respectfully submitted,



Rodney Mauricio, Ph.D.
Chair, Educational Affairs Committee