



# The University of Georgia

University Council  
Athens, Georgia 30602

October 12, 2015

Dr. Rodney Mauricio, Arts and Sciences (Sciences), Chair  
Agricultural and Environmental Sciences - Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward  
(also representing Forestry and Natural Resources)  
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(also representing Pharmacy, Law, and Engineering)  
Provost's Representative – Dr. Rahul Shrivastav  
Undergraduate Student Representative – Mr. Houston Gaines  
Graduate/Professional Student Representative – Ms. Audrey Lewis

Dear Colleagues:

Attached for your information is the 2014-2015 Hardship Withdrawals Annual Report.

Sincerely,

Rodney Mauricio, Chair  
Educational Affairs Committee

cc: Provost Pamela S. Whitten  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav



# The University of Georgia

Division of Student Affairs

October 12, 2015

Rodney Mauricio, Ph.D.  
Chair, Educational Affairs Committee  
114 New College  
CAMPUS

Dear Dr. Mauricio,

As requested, I am writing to provide the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC) with information regarding the number of hardship withdrawals and partial hardship withdrawals approved by the Office of Student Support Services in the Office of the Dean of Students for 2014-15.

Please note that the Withdrawal Policy changes that went into effect during the Spring 2015 semester led to some confusion and misunderstandings about the most appropriate withdrawal process. Specifically, there was confusion about whether students who were seeking to withdraw from all enrolled courses prior to the Withdrawal Deadline of the semester should appeal for a Hardship Withdrawal through the Office of Student Support Services. Student Support Services staff were initially advised that these students could simply withdraw via Athena prior to the Withdrawal Deadline and that there was no benefit to working with Student Support Services to obtain a hardship withdrawal. Later, Student Support Services staff determined that there were implications that made it advisable for students who were withdrawing from all enrolled courses due to significant extenuating circumstances to seek hardship withdrawals from Student Support.

In the Fall 2014 semester, the Office of Student Support Services granted 188 complete hardship withdrawals and 36 partial hardship withdrawals. In the Spring 2015 semester, the Office of Student Support Services granted 66 complete hardship withdrawals and 25 partial hardship withdrawals. In the Summer 2015 term, Student Support Services granted 23 complete hardship withdrawals and 4 partial hardship withdrawals.

In the Fall 2013 semester, the Office of Student Support Services granted 146 complete hardship withdrawals and 23 partial hardship withdrawals. In the Spring 2014 semester Student Support Services granted 145 complete hardship withdrawals and 18 partial hardship withdrawals.

In the Fall 2012 semester, the Office of Student Support Services granted 125 complete hardship withdrawals and 21 partial hardship withdrawals. In the Spring 2013 semester, the Office of Student Support Services granted 135 complete hardship withdrawals and 25 partial hardship withdrawals. In the Summer 2013 term, Student Support Services granted 33 complete hardship withdrawals and 5 partial hardship withdrawals.

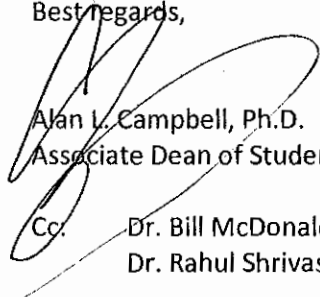
It is important to understand that students often contact our office with an initial inquiry about the student's withdrawal options. As a result, students who may initially be considering seeking a partial hardship withdrawal may instead opt to seek a complete hardship withdrawal after learning that selective course or partial hardship withdrawals are rarely granted.

Because our process involves actively educating students about course withdrawal policies (including the hardship withdrawal policy) to inform the student's understanding of options and any subsequent decision-making, we are unable to report discrete categories of appeal and denial that correspond to the EAC petitions subcommittee. For instance, a student may contact our office and inquire about a selective course hardship withdrawal. However, after we educate the student about the withdrawal policies and the implications of withdrawing, the student may opt not pursue a partial hardship withdrawal, may elect to utilize a conventional course withdrawal instead, may seek a complete hardship withdrawal, or may choose to remain in the course.

Generally, when students seek hardship withdrawals during the semester, it is because the student is experiencing significant extenuating health issues and the student may need to withdraw from classes to seek treatment and prioritize the student's health recovery. The majority of hardship withdrawals that were granted involved significant psychological health issues, including depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder. In most cases, students prefer to persist in their courses if they can despite the impact of the hardship circumstances. Requesting a hardship withdrawal is typically a last resort in part because of the potentially significant financial aid implications and other considerations.

I hope that this information is helpful to the Educational Affairs Committee. I invite you to contact me if you have any questions or if you need any additional information.

Best regards,



Alan L. Campbell, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean of Students for Student Support Services

Cc. Dr. Bill McDonald  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav