



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – 2015-2016

Dr. Rodney Mauricio, Arts and Sciences (Sciences), Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences - Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward
(also representing Forestry and Natural Resources)

Arts and Sciences - Dr. Roxanne Eberle (Arts)
Dr. Mark Farmer (Sciences)

Business – Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

Education – Dr. Laura Bierema

Environment and Design – Mr. David Spooner
(also representing Public Health, Social Work, and Ecology)

Family and Consumer Sciences - Dr. Andy Carswell

Journalism and Mass Communication – Dr. Jeong-Yeob Han

Public and International Affairs – Dr. Andy Owsiak

Veterinary Medicine – Dr. Shannon Holmes
(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

The Educational Affairs Committee is a 13-member committee representing each school and college. The membership also includes the Provost and students representing both undergraduates and graduate students. The EAC considers and recommends educational policies to the University Council. We hear all student petitions on academic matters, either pertaining to University policy or originating as an appeal at the school or college level.

The Educational Affairs Committee last met as a full committee on August 24, 2015. Since the last report to University Council, the Petitions Subcommittee met six times and reviewed 236 appeals. Of these appeals, 131 were approved and 105 were denied.

Our committee has been in active discussions on how to streamline the appeals process. We are interested in making the process more transparent for students as well as easier to adjudicate. We are particularly concerned about a significant increase in the number of requests for retroactive hardship withdrawals (those requested after the end of the semester). In 2013, we heard 84 such requests, jumping more than 50% to 132 last year). We are on a pace to have more than that this year (121 with 3 months to go). We are discussing whether we would like to provide a deadline for appeals, much like the current policy for grade appeals (which are limited to 1 year).

In other areas, the committee was made aware of a revision to the Board of Regents Academic Renewal Policy and we will be drafting a proposal to revise UGA's policy to be in agreement with the new BOR policy.

The Registrar announced that her office is working on an electronic grade change process which should be ready by December.

The Registrar updated the committee on the remaining NG grades. These grades affect financial aid and prevent students from graduating. The Registrar has contacted department heads to assist in resolving the remaining 18 NG grades from fall semester, 2014. As of August 24, 77 NG grades remain for spring semester 2015, and over 1400 NG grades remain for summer semester 2015. The Registrar added that the Board of Regents policy states faculty are responsible for assigning grades.

The committee considered a revision to the 2015-2016 Academic Calendar. The Registrar requested that the due date for grades in spring semester 2016 be changed from May 16, 2016, to May 15, 2016. Currently, the date is the same as the first day of classes for May Session and Extended Summer Session. The committee approved the revision and forwarded the proposal to the Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rodney Mauricio". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "R" and "M".

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