

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

3:30 PM, 501 Main Library

10.3.00

A discussion began on the ACHE faculty work load situation. "We participate in the Delaware Study, where we are compared to other comprehensive research institutions. Why is that not enough?" Margaret Garner. We may be being lumped into the same boat with other regional 4-year institutions.

When these statistics were mandated, there was no money included for developing and maintaining programs to study faculty work load.

The Planning and Operations Committee of the Faculty Senate will take up the ACHE business.

Don DeSmet reviewed last meeting's results:

- We reached at consensus on breaking up the Undergraduate Programs and Services Committee, and sent a memorandum to the Chair of the Committee on Committees to that effect. Dr. Lazer wants to meet with the Co-chairs to discuss how the break up might occur.
- Don will send a synopsis of the results of the poll on Academic Suspension to Hank Lazer, and remind him that the final draft needs to go to the full faculty senate with the proposed changes.
- The next issues coming in our direction from Dr. Lazer will be academic regulations, including: 1) Suspension/probation policies (2,500 UA students are on academic probation or suspension. 33% of all freshmen are on suspension or probation); 2) Withdrawal from the University or classes. Confusion abounds. 3) "Forgiveness Policy" - the Committee again grumbled heavily about this entire phenomenon. 4) Academic Bankruptcy, and 5) Academic Second Opportunity. A discussion ensued:

Academic forgiveness is granted for up to three courses, and is used widely to elevate grade point averages as well as get students out of an academic mire. Departments have been given the opportunity to mark certain classes ineligible for forgiveness, but enterprising students have found ways around this. When one department doesn't respect another's marked classes students may shift majors for a day to have a class forgiven, and then change back to their original major. A forgiveness policy encourages a sense of entitlement among students. The academic transcript from The University of Alabama does not reflect the actual record, and may reflect poorly on UA.

Suggestions: 1) Each College should respect each other's marked courses; 2) Forgiveness policy should follow the course across campus.

Questions: 1) How often is forgiveness used, and does it apply to graduate students? We need the numbers. 2) What does the UA academic transcript look like when forgiveness or bankruptcy is invoked by a student?

Don will provide a copy of the academic regulations on our website in due course, and e-mail the committee when they are up.