

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

3:30 PM, 501 Main Library

2.6.01

Dr. Hank Lazer accepted our invitation to present to the committee, and brought with him a draft of proposed changes in academic regulations, including the troublesome forgiveness policy with which we have been wrestling.

A discussion ensued about the short period students have before officially withdrawing from a class. Students say they need more time to decide whether a class is working for them or not. Of course the deeper a student is in the class, the more commitment of faculty time has been made, and the spot a student has occupied cannot then be taken by another.

The forgiveness policy seems abused.

The goal here is to improve student retention, particularly during and at the end of the freshman year. The university is at an all-time six year student graduation rate — 61%. We lose most students between their freshman and sophomore years.

The procedure in reviewing the academic regulations involve the following steps:

- A review, to occur now and in the near future, by both the Undergraduate Programs and Services Committee and its academic affairs subcommittee, and the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee;
- A review by assistant and associate deans;
- A review by the Council of Dean;
- A decision, after review, by the Provost.

Dr. Lazer would like these proposals to be communicated to the Faculty Senate, and for this process to be done within two months.

The Academic Affairs Committee then made a number of suggestions after reviewing the document. These suggestions were added to a web file of the original draft version of proposed changes to academic regulations, and posted to the committee's website for further committee review, before it will be distributed electronically to the Faculty Senate. This draft with our suggested revisions will be presented to the Steering Committee at its next meeting. The committee believes there should be a vote at the next Faculty Senate meeting to record the Senate's reaction, in principle, to the proposals.