

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

3:30 PM, 501 Main Library

4.3.00

ANNUAL REPORT

The Academic Affairs Committee spent its time this academic year discussing undergraduate academic rules and regulation, including: 1) Suspension/probation policies, 2) withdrawal from the University or classes, 3) the forgiveness policy, 4) academic bankruptcy, and 5) academic second opportunity. Much of our discussion centered around the forgiveness policy, which with but some minor reservations, the Committee ultimately felt needed to go in its entirety. Students use the forgiveness policy to get rid of up to 3 courses they did poorly in, but often fail to realize that the courses are still listed on their transcript, and at the higher end to elevate their GPA. It is thought that both approaches cheapen the diploma from The University of Alabama, and that academic standards need tightening.

The Committee visited with Dr. Hank Lazer, Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Programs and Services, on two occasions about the academic regulations, which the Office of Academic Affairs is keen to revise. Twice we went back to Dr. Lazer with suggested changes to the document, and once to the faculty senate for its basic opinion about the direction Academic Affairs was heading with the regulations. The faculty senate basically agreed with the changes, with some reservations.

The Committee strongly recommends that any rule changes be carefully monitored by the Academic Affairs Committee in the future. The advising and mid term grading for freshmen need special monitoring.

Academic Affairs discussed faculty and student computer support at nearly every one of its meetings, and Donald DeSmet met a number of times with various individuals to spread the word about much needed prioritizing of consistent and substantial support for faculty/student computing on a much higher scale than we now see.

We worked some on Intellectual Property issues. There are two documents on the Senate web pages that came out of this:

<http://www.ua.edu/academic/facsen/docs/copyrnew.html>

<http://www.ua.edu/academic/facsen/docs/copyr2.htm>

These topics we would like to bring forward to the next Academic Affairs Committee:

- How the graduate school deals with new students. There seems to be a fair amount of confusion among newly accepted and newly arriving graduate students about preregistration, and the registration process. There are instances of students not being sent registration materials, with the expectation that students, after being accepted into the University, need to call and request registration material. This seems confusing and questionable.
- The Student Government Association is interested in making public instructor evaluations. It is felt by the current AA Committee that this is a clear violation of the privacy that exists between employer (UA) and employee (faculty member).*

- The Academic Regulations package considerations need to be pursued by next year's Academic Affairs Committee, and re-presented to the faculty senate in the fall of 2001 for a vote.