

Report to the University Senate

Council on Enrollment and Student Progress: AY 2006-2007

Introduction: Role and Responsibilities (see Faculty Rule 3335-5-486)

The Council on Enrollment and Student Progress (CESP) is a standing committee of the University Senate, and as such, addresses issues related to enrollment planning for the university and all of its students. Particularly for undergraduate students, the council considers initiatives that affect recruitment, admissions, financial aid, registration, and student retention. In addition, CESP considers proposals and situations related to the university calendar, student records, and graduation.

The Council is made up of fifteen voting members, including nine regular faculty and six students, and a non-voting administrative liaison (Dr. Martha Garland, Vice Provost and Dean - Office of Enrollment Services and Undergraduate Education). It traditionally maintains close ties and serves as a conduit for regular communication with key personnel in the offices of Student Financial Aid, Undergraduate Admissions, First Year Experience, Undergraduate Studies, the University Registrar, Minority Affairs, Student Athlete Support Service Office, Undergraduate Research Office, and Institutional Planning and Research. Individuals from these offices regularly attend meetings and contribute valuable data, counsel, and support. During the 2006-2007, council meetings were scheduled monthly. Various subcommittees met regularly through the academic year.

Key Initiatives in 2006-2007

- **Academic calendar for 2008**

When considering the standard schedule of the academic quarters for 2008, commencement would have fallen on a holiday weekend twice; Easter for Spring Quarter and Labor Day for Autumn Quarter. A schedule was presented and approved which alleviated this issue. It was also suggested that the first two days of Winter Quarter, which are a Thursday and Friday, should be considered academically as being a Monday and a Tuesday, respectively.

- **Question of student attendance at Bowl Champion Series (BCS) football game**

CSA (Council on Student Affairs) initiated a resolution regarding students who would be attending the BCS game on Jan. 7 in Arizona and miss some class time as a result. Though there was discussion within CSA, CESP, Faculty Cabinet, and possibly other venues within the University, no formal resolution or action resulted.

- **Subcommittee efforts**

The Grading and Performance Subcommittee and Transfer Policy Subcommittee were formed in January 2006 and their effort continued into 2006-2007. The Academic Standards and Process Review Subcommittee was formed in June 2006 to be a liaison for

the faculty/Senate relative to the efforts associated with the implementation of the new Student Information System (SIS). The subcommittee began meeting during the summer of 2006, continued through the academic year and will continue during the 2007-2008 year. During Winter Quarter a subcommittee with members representing both CESP and non-CESP personnel was formed to address Academic Performance of African-American Male Football Players.

Grading and Performance Subcommittee – the charge as developed by the subcommittee was

“The Grading and Student Progress Task Force will study the practice and rationale for assignment of letter grades in undergraduate courses and investigate the impact of grading practices on student progress with the intent of making suggestions about how the grading process might be improved.”

The subcommittee’s objective for 2006 – 2007 was to produce a draft of a document tentatively titled “Guidelines for Grading Undergraduate Student Course Performance at The Ohio State University”. The document would contain sections describing: characteristics of desirable grading practices, course syllabi, and data on existing grading practices at OSU and recommendations on OSU grading practices. As this document was not completed, this effort would be continued during 2006-2007. The subcommittee consulted extensively with FTAD (Faculty & TA Development) personnel.

Transfer Policy Subcommittee – the purpose was to review progress and the success of the undergraduate transfer student population compared to UGs who started at OSU. The success of students changing from a regional campus to the Columbus campus are also considered. As efforts were underway in FCA (Faculty Council on Admissions) regarding the criteria for transfer admissions, the activities of the subcommittee were put on hold. At the June 2007 CESP meeting when a report from FCA was presented, a discussion resulted in what is the charge of FCA and what is the relationship of that group with CESP. That clarification will be a future topic of discussion. No action was taken on the FCA report.

Academic Standards and Process Review Subcommittee – as the Student Information System is being implemented, it is an ideal time for CESP to review the various faculty rules and policies associated with enrollment and student progress and suggest changes as appropriate so that these changes can be implemented in SIS as it is brought on line. The following are the major items under discussion; the status of each item is indicated:

- Creation of a faculty rule for awarding dean’s list honor (approved by CAA)
- Change in faculty rule for standards of honors at graduation (approved by CAA)
- Revision of the faculty rule for recalculation of cumulative point hour ratio (back to CAA for further discussion)

- Change in the faculty rule to eliminate academic warning (more discussion is required)

Academic Progress of African-American Male Football Players Subcommittee – this issue was raised as a result of publications in both the local and national press leading up to the BCS game in January 2007 regarding graduation rates of this group of players. A subcommittee of CESP members and other OSU personnel was convened to investigate this issue. They were scheduled to meet during the summer and provide a report during autumn 2007.

- **Other CESP business**

As is the usual practice, reports are given regularly to CESP regarding admission and matriculation statistics.

Representatives from USG presented the USG Policy Agenda. No formal action was necessary; the purpose was to inform so that CESP was aware of their initiatives and any possible overlap.

It is recommended that a regional campus representative be included as one of the faculty members of CESP to provide a perspective representative of that population of the university.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald G. Kasten, Ph.D.
CESP chairperson, 2006-2007
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