

Council on Enrollment and Student Progress

2010-2011 Annual Report to the University Senate

Introduction:

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 its students. The emphasis is generally on policies that affect recruitment, admissions, financial aid, registration, and retention and graduation of undergraduate students. In addition, CESP considers proposals related to the university calendar, and student records.

CESP consists of fifteen voting members, nine of whom are faculty members and the other six are students, and two ex-officio non-voting members, namely the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, and the Vice-President for Enrollment Services. It traditionally works closely with the key personnel in these two areas, including the offices of Undergraduate Admissions, Student Financial Aid, and the University Registrar. Individuals from these and other offices regularly attend CESP meetings and provide valuable counsel, data and support.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, there were eight regular monthly meetings, and two special meetings. The routine business of the committee includes reports from the offices mentioned in the previous paragraph. Highlights from these reports are included below. In addition, CESP dealt with several issues related to the conversion to semesters.

Action Items:

Rule Changes related to Transition to Semester Calendar:

One major item related to the transition to semesters was left over to be dealt with, namely changing various faculty rules that contained language that assumed a quarter based calendar. Many of these changes were routine, but some, such as Faculty Rule 3335-8-32 on deadline for withdrawal from a course, required more deliberation. A working group consisting of Professor Jack Rall (Chair), Professor David Stetson, Ms. Christina Sladoje, and Mr. Brad Myers was appointed to identify the rules that needed to be changed, consult the various constituencies, and present proposals for the required changes. These proposals were presented over three meetings. With CESP approval, they were forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs and to the Senate office.

ROTC Priority Scheduling:

A proposal to give students in the Reserve Officers Training Corps priority scheduling was presented by Ms. Slodaje on behalf of the Undergraduate Student Government. ROTC students sign contracts that include the requirement of graduation by a certain date. Failure to meet the conditions can result in loss of financial aid as well as inability

to start at a commissioned officer rank. After extended discussion and exploring possible remedies, CESP approved "College Priority" for ROTC students. This will allow ROTC students to register before other in their class rank.

Session Calendars:

While the overall semester calendar was already set, some of the details of how semesters will be divided into seven week sessions had to be determined. Professor Terry Gustafson and Brad Myers, who were part of the semester calendar subcommittee, worked on these details, and their proposal was approved.

Conditional Admissions:

One of the welcome consequences of the improvement in the Freshman class is that far fewer students are admitted conditionally. Those students who are admitted with deficiencies compared to the required high school curriculum generally make them up as part of their general education requirements and degree requirements. In view of this, CESP concurred with the proposal to discontinue the designation of "Conditional Admission".

Academic Warning, Probation and Dismissal:

Currently students with a cumulative grade point average below 2.0 are placed on Academic Warning or Probation based on "deficiency points", which is a measure of performance needed to raise the GPA to 2.0. However, being placed on Academic Warning does not always elicit immediate corrective action by the student concerned: Students often continue in that status for long periods of time. This may make it difficult to graduate in a timely manner. This problem is likely to worsen with transition to semesters, as there will be fewer terms per year. Based on these considerations, CESP has sent to the Senate Office a proposal to amend the Faculty Rules to eliminate the category of Academic Warning, and to place all students with GPA below 2.0 on probation. Colleges will have the discretion to set the conditions for extension of probation.

In other actions, CESP approved a proposal not to admit new students for Summer Session of 2012 in view of conversion to semesters, and clarified items considered as student directory information, in order to alleviate privacy concerns.

Reports Received

Freshman Class:

Applications increased more than 25% compared to last year, to 26,634. Average scores of admitted students on standardized tests (ACT and SAT) increased slightly, and 54% are in the top ten percent of their high school class. The percentage of students from outside Ohio and of international students showed marked increase from 2009.

Retention and Graduation:

Retention rate of new freshmen admitted in Fall 2009 showed a small increase over the previous year, to 92.8% from 92.5%. This rate has not changed much in the last three years. The five year enrollment plan touches on the retention rate and new ways of increasing the retention rate need to be explored.

Graduation rates have maintained their steady improvement. Particularly encouraging is the noticeable reduction in the gap between six year graduation rates of African-American students and the overall six year graduation rate. For students admitted in 2004, these were 78.0% overall vs. 68.7% for African-Americans, while for those admitted in 2003, the corresponding figures were 74.9% and 61.1%.

Financial Aid:

Students at all OSU campuses collectively received about 954 million dollars in student loans, grants and other aid. Support provided by the university has increased by more than 20% over the last five years. Funding for work-study has been reduced due to government budget cuts. Total amount of student loans is increasing and the impact of this is being monitored to avoid potential problems.

In addition to these reports, CESP also heard an update on the five year enrollment plan, a report from the Economic Access Initiative, a report on the GI Promise bill and its provisions, and a report on how grade points and credit hours will be converted from quarters to semesters.

Respectfully submitted
Vidhyanath K. Rao
Chair, 2010-2011
CESP