

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, September 27, 2021

2:30p.m. | UC Council Room

MINUTES

Present: Benedict, Brewer, Couch, Franklin (Dineen), Matchett, Pullen, Schaberl (Lightfoot), Vaughan, Wieben, Wood (Muller)

Absent: Benavidez, Kraver

Guests: Heiny, Levin

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:33pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

Approval of the September 13, 2021 meeting minutes

Approved with objection.

Announcements

Chair’s report (Vaughan) – No Report.

Reports from Councils:

Graduate Council (Brewer) – We discussed a permanent S/U grading option, and the Graduate Council expressed there is no place for an S/U grading option at the graduate level. There would be too many difficulties with

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New Business

• **Grade Point Average**

Couch presented proposed catalog language to clarify how UNC GPA is calculated:

The cumulative University of Northern Colorado grade point average (GPA) is calculated as follows: the credit hours and quality points are totaled for all courses and across all campuses within the same degree level.

The issue arose when a student who graduated from UNC with a bachelor's degree in 2012 has now returned and is pursuing a 2nd bachelor's degree in Nursing. The student wants a fresh UNC GPA. However, GPA at a given level (UG or GR) is calculated cumulatively across time.

- The student has already started the Nursing program, meaning the student met the program's GPA requirement for admission.
- It is common practice across higher education nationally to include all institutional coursework by level in calculation of GPA, regardless of date of completion.
- The language proposal presented is based on language in CU Boulder's catalog.

DISCUSSION:

GPA does not typically follow students from one institution to another.

- Institutions transfer credit when a minimum transferable grade is met (often "C-" or higher), but the grades themselves are not transferred.
- Only resident work is counted toward GPA.
- All resident work of the same level is counted in the cumulative UNC GPA.
- Students pursuing a 2nd BA at UNC whose first bachelor's degree was awarded at another institution start their program with no UNC GPA.
 - In this sense, they are relieved of the baggage or benefit of their GPA from other institutions.
- Cumulative institutional GPA may be seen as a discouragement from pursuing a 2nd degree at the same institution (depending on past academic performance).
- Depending on their previous academic performance, some students want their previous UNC GPA to be included in the overall calculation.

Major GPA is not reported on official transcripts; it is, however, reported in Degree Works.

- Seeing program-specific GPA is helpful for evaluators reviewing admissions packets/transcripts.
- Reporting major GPA outside of Degree Works would require larger conversations.
- Official transcripts show specific detail on when degrees are awarded; it is clear to discern a student's performance during any given semesters.
- The Registrar's Office has provided letters to programs/employers to explain the exp-5(em)-6. (e) TJO Tc 0 e

- A sub-committee could review grading-related policies and make a recommendation about how to package/present information in an easily digestible way for students, faculty, and advisors.

MOTION: Brewer – It is moved to create a sub-committee to examine grading policies in the Registrar’s website and university catalogs for clarity and consistency.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

Brewer and Vaughan volunteer to serve, and Couch will identify a Registrar staff member to help in the task.

- We will begin work once Couch sends a volunteer.

Comments to the Good of the Order

- Applications are open for commencement student speakers at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Please encourage graduating students to apply.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24pm.

Angela Vaughan
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary