

MINUTES

Undergraduate Studies Council

September 19, 2007

11:00-12:30

Present: Jamba, Jaffee, Corrigan, Schwam-Baird, Tanner, Hall, Wilburn, Reedy, Borg, Furtwengler, Murillo, Jones, Butler, Crump, Croft, Kaye, Perry, Turrin, Kaplan, Senior

1. Introductions
2. Announcements: Jaffee announced the Constitution Week activities past and future.
3. Jaffee introduced a formal policy statement on the “No Credit” grading option. This was discussed last Spring but Jaffee wanted the Undergraduate Studies Committee to make a formal vote on the policy. If supported it would be a recommendation and passed on to the GE Council and the Faculty Association.

The policy reads as follows (the version below includes the suggested change to the last line for clarification):

The “No-Credit” Grading Option

Policy:

The “No-Credit” (NC) grading option would be available to faculty teaching skill-based Gordon Rule courses in English and Mathematics/Statistics. This grade could be awarded to students who made every effort to succeed but were unable to demonstrate sufficient proficiency in the skill to the point of earning a satisfactory grade for the course for the semester. The assignment of the NC grade would be entirely at the discretion of the faculty member.

The NC grade option would be available to faculty teaching only the following courses: ENC1101, LIT2000, STA2014, MGF1106, MGF1107, MAC1105, MAC1147, and MAC1990.

The NC grade can only be used one time for each eligible course.

Matt Corrigan proposed that the council take a straw vote from all those present and then a vote from the voting members (those faculty elected to the council by the Faculty Association). On the straw vote the policy passed 18-2; among the six voting members the policy passed 4-2.

4. Marnie Jones reported for the First-Year Experience Subcommittee and the plan to have a common freshman reading for next fall's entering freshman class. She provided a handout with information on the plan and a timeline for various decisions to be made. The GE Council will review suggested titles and make a recommendation of 2-3 books to the Assistant VP for Undergraduate Studies.

Various issues were raised: how to incorporate into Week of Welcome, incentive for students to read the book before arriving at UNF, need to invite the author, need to include summer freshman students, the cost of the project and providing copies to all students at orientation. Models from other institutions will be examined.

5. Lisa Jamba reported for the Faculty Advising Subcommittee. She presented the results of the faculty survey as a handout.

Various issues were raised: where to go next; how to implement a plan; should UNF use an undergraduate coordinator model; what specific responsibilities should be assigned to the coordinator; how important is it to have widespread faculty involvement beyond the coordinator; each college and program might prefer a different model to achieve the common purpose; the faculty advisor needs to develop close ties to the professional advisors.

It was decided that the subcommittee would develop a list, or menu, of options that could be made available to colleges and departments to expand faculty involvement in the advising process. This would be presented at the next meeting.

6. The Retention Sub-Committee would report on its activities at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20