

**Undergraduate Council Committee Minutes  
October 25, 2010 2:30 PM Stoddard Hall Room 308**

**In Attendance:**

Manal Omary, Jordan Fuchs, Bobbie Ferrell, Jacob Blosser, Pat Devereaux, David Rylander, Claire Sahlin, Terry Senne, Sneha Bharadwaj, Roger Shipley, Elizabeth Restrepo, Gloria Byrd, Shann Hwa Hwang, Karen Petty, Pat Holden-Huchton, Abigail Tilton, Linda Kobler, Larisa Kliman, Judith Bean, Carol Kominski, Laura Rocchio, Sharon Vincent,

**Special Guest:** Governor Jackson

**Absent:**

Don Edwards, Susan Eitel, Penny Hanstein, Joni Jensen, Peggy Landrum, Guy Litton, Mahmoud Sadri, Ron Fannin, Heather Speed, Keith Restine

**1. Meeting called to order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 by Dr. David Rylander, Chair of the Council. Dr. Rylander reviewed the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda with the committee, advising that the main topic of the day's agenda would be the academic suspension/probation policy. Dr. Rylander commended the Academic Standards Task Force for their work in reviewing the university's current policy and in making sound suggestions for improvement.

**2. Review and approve minutes of September 27, 2010 meeting**

Copies of the minutes of the September 27, 2010 meeting of the Undergraduate Council were distributed and reviewed. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

**3. Committee Updates**

The Council next heard reports from the various committees.

a. Course Review Committee

Course Review Committees have reviewed SCI 3033: Water in Changing Environment and WS 3023: U.S. Women of Color.

At this time, the Global Perspectives Subcommittee has not approved SCI 3033: Water in Changing Environment while the Multicultural Women's Studies Subcommittee did approve WS 3023: U.S. Women of Color. The Oral Communications Subcommittee had nothing to report at this time.

b. Program Proposal Review Committee

The Program Proposal Review Committee is currently reviewing a proposed Certificate Program in Adapted Physical Education.

c. Assessment Committee

The Assessment Committee had nothing to report at this time.

c. Student Retention Committee

The Student Retention Committee had nothing to report at this time.

d. Academic Standards Task Force

Dr. Rylander made a presentation in which he highlighted the work of the Academic Standards Task Force. The presentation followed the meeting agenda outline, including information on current policy/problems, a brief review of other university academic probation/suspension policies, the suspension/probation process, and recommendations for improving Texas Woman's University policy. To emphasize the seriousness of the policy, Governor Jackson of the Financial Aid Office was available for questions from the council and provided a brief sketch of related difficulties with the current policy.

Dr. Rylander reviewed the current TWU probation/suspension policy with the Council which indicates that if a student has a 1.8 cumulative GPA with less than 30 hours or less than a 2.0 with 30 or more hours, the student is placed on academic probation. The student enters the following semester on academic probation and during the probation semester must earn a 2.0 with nine or more hours. If, however, during the probation semester the student falls below a 2.0, then the student enters into academic suspension. Dr. Rylander pointed out:

- 1<sup>st</sup> suspension – 1 long semester
- 2<sup>nd</sup> suspension – 2 long semesters
- 3<sup>rd</sup> suspension – indefinite (2+ years)

Dr. Rylander urged the Council to review the current policy and make recommendations for improving the policy with any recommendations to be forwarded to the Provost. To facilitate the discussion, Dr. Rylander presented a list of some of the questions and comments presented by the Academic Standards Task Force:

- How should summer count (in terms of suspension time and evaluation of probation/suspension)?
- How do we treat courses taken at other institutions while on probation or suspension?
- What is the process/logistics for students being put on hold, reinstated, or counseled?
- What if less than 9 hours while on probation?
- Policy of eliminating F's from other schools
- Effect on financial aid
- Summer counts (for probation, suspension and academic status) as long term if student takes 9 hours total.
- Petition to dean to be re-enrolled after suspension
- Freshmen on 1<sup>st</sup> suspension can take up to 12 hours elsewhere (and grades considered for re-enrollment).
- F's at other institutions should remain part of a student's record.

Governor Jackson, Director of Financial Aid, made a presentation on the financial aid standards. Mr. Jackson said the financial aid standards are slightly different than academic standards. Mr. Jackson indicated that a student with less than 6 hours of academic enrollment in a semester is expected to complete everything with an acceptable GPA. He said a student can go on academic and financial aid suspension independently; they don't track identically. If a student goes to probation financial aid wise, they have the next semester to correct whatever the problem is. The student has within the semester to complete this. If the student does not do so, however, they go into financial aid suspension until they successfully complete a semester. A successfully completed semester consists of nine out of twelve credit hours if full-time or six of eleven if part-time. Once allowed back in, they are still on financial aid suspension. Mr. Jackson sees this as a bit of a problem. He supports allowing students to take classes at other institutions and then transfer in. Mr. Jackson's suggestion is to allow them to return to the community college where they can take the remediated courses. Pat Devereaux asked for clarification on the two different standards. To get off financial aid suspension, they have to complete nine of twelve, or six of eleven. A question was asked whether if someone signs up for a full [course] load and then drops out of a few classes, do they still get the full amount of financial aid? Mr. Jackson explained that financial aid is locked in at the census date. A member asked what the definition of "pass" is, to which Mr. Jackson answered that in both financial and academic circles the definition of pass is a "C".

This semester, he reported, we have over 11,000 students on some type of financial aid. A question was presented about what 12 hours we [TWU] would accept. The recommendation was made that the classes be in the failed hours. If adopted, Governor Jackson urged the council to inform students of their options.

Dr. Rylander suggested that any vote on this matter be suspended at this time pending additional discussion and evaluation of the proposed changes. Dr. Rylander requested that the council email Dr. Bean with any suggestions or comments.

Dr. Bean added that there is a great need to get grades turned in on time. Dr. Bean reported on problems in late turn-in on grades, resulting in students not being aware of their academic status until the week before the start of the next semester. Dr. Bean suggested that also there be a process for re-enrolling including the written recovery suspension/probation contract, meeting with advisors, deans, etc. The seriousness of the issues includes and cannot ignore the financial implications; the debt that our students accumulate especially for students who fail out of the university. Dr. Bean reviewed the recommendations made by the Academic Standards Task Force.

5. Other business

6. Next meeting:

Undergraduate Council Executive Committee Meeting November 22, 2010 at 2:30 PM ACT13.  
Undergraduate Council General Meeting November 29 at 2:30 PM in SH308.

7. Adjournment of meeting: 3:15 PM