

Committee on Academic Affairs
Minutes of the March 11, 2009 Meeting

Members Present:

Jim Reburn, Chair (Business)
Bernie Ankney (A&S)
Janie Kennedy (A&S)
Robin Roberts (A&S)
Tom Fuller (Divinity)
Charles Ford (Education)
Alyssa A. DiRusso (Law)
Jaro Szurek (Library)
Mary Karlet (Nursing)
Mary Worthington (Pharmacy)
Nancy Biggio (Ex-Officio)
Paul Aucoin (Ex-Officio)

Members Absent:

Don Rankin (Arts) (Class conflict with meeting time.)
Tyler Hooper (Student, Ex-Officio)

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:15pm.
2. The Chair reported to the Committee action items taken to last month's Faculty Senate meeting. All Committee action items taken forward passed. The Senate did request that the Committee consider re-wording the paragraph on page 20 of the 2008-09 Catalog describing the university's writing proficiency requirement. The new language will remove reference to the "W" course requirement but maintain the requirement that, "All students must complete Communication Arts II (UCCA 102) at Samford (or transfer an equivalent course) with a grade of C- or better." The Committee decided to delegate the task of Catalog editing with respect to this policy change to Dean Aucoin's office.
3. The Committee continued its discussion regarding possible changes to the AP and/or Dual Credit Policy as listed on page 15 of the 2008-09 Catalog. It appears that most members are comfortable with the current policy for allowing AP credit although a change to the current policy has not been ruled out. Most of the discussion addressed the current dual enrollment policy. Dual enrollment programs are collaborative efforts between high schools and colleges in which high school students are permitted to enroll in college courses. These programs provide students with a challenging academic experience and the opportunity to earn college credit prior to high school graduation. Dual enrollment students take actual college courses taught by faculty meeting regional university accreditation standards. If dual enrollment courses are accepted, students earning a grade of C- may transfer the course for college credit. After an extended discussion, several committee members expressed concern about the many questions that remain unanswered regarding the nature and scope of the perceived problem and impact of any proposed change. In addition to the issues discussed at last month's meeting, the following comments/questions/issues were raised at this month's meeting:

- a. Of prospective students, what is the distribution of dual credits earned by these students?
- b. Of the currently enrolled SU students, what is the distribution of dual credits earned?
- c. What level of course(s) (100-level, 200-level, 300-level, etc) are students enrolled in for dual credit? Are the courses survey-type or introductory in nature?
- d. Specifically, what courses are generally offered on a dual credit basis?
- e. Admissions may be at a competitive disadvantage if other universities accept dual credit coursework.
- f. Double-dipping is wrong. We should not give credit for the same course twice.
- g. A study by Karp, *et al* (2007) entitled, "The Postsecondary Achievement of Participants in Dual Enrollment: An Analysis of Student Outcomes in Two States" was cited that provides evidence that students that participate in dual enrollment courses are high-achieving students.
- h. High achieving students at some rural or underserved schools only have access to challenging academic courses through dual enrollment courses. These are the type of students we should target for admission.
- i. Student can take the same course, with the same instructor, during a summer term not used for high school credit and earn acceptable SU transfer credit.
- j. What type of student deselects SU because of our dual enrollment policy?
- k. Inconsistent treatment of students who transfer to SU from other universities. For example, Alabama may accept dual credit but when a student attempts to transfer to SU, we must explain that the dual credits do not count here although they did at Alabama.

To seek clarity to some of these questions, the Committee will invite Dr. Kimrey to the next meeting to continue the discussion.

4. The Committee passed a proposal to combine the two dates to withdraw from a course without academic penalty and the date to withdraw from all courses in a semester without academic penalty. The final date to withdraw from a course is to be set at approximately two full weeks before the first day of the final exam week. In effect, this proposal allows students to withdraw from one or more courses without academic penalty nearer to the date where the student previously was required to withdraw from the university in order to withdraw from more than one course without academic penalty.
5. The Committee discussed the current "Course Repeats" policy otherwise known as the "D" repeat policy. There was a discussion of the limitation on the number of repeatable credits as well as the grade for which the policy applies. Committee members were asked to seek input about the current policy from their respective units and this policy will be discussed at the April meeting.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.