

**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

behalf of Kraver that PEC does not are part of teacher education programs,

ittee to examine the creation of a commendations for Canvas use, syllabus applications are open.

en4 (p)-14 (m)-r (t)-2 (c)-.J0 Tc 0 Tw 1646 (on)j(C) /P A MCID 24 BDC -0.003 5.15Td(S)j(C) /P ET A MCID 24 BDC -0.BT11.1 n courses may be graded.

le distinction is not

otion for students to elect to

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 GPA calculation.

- 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