

Graduate Council Meeting
Minutes
March 30, 2009

Present: Muehsam, Boccaccini, Cook, Hoover, Nichter, Reed, Ruiz
(Dr. Mike Vaughn visited from the College of Criminal Justice)

I. Approve Minutes

The minutes from the March 16, 2009 Graduate Council meeting were approved.

II. Review Graduate Faculty Status Recommendations

Per the Graduate Faculty Status Policy, the Council reviewed and made graduate faculty status recommendations for nominations.

III. Credit, Non-credit

The issue of students receiving credit or non-credit for thesis or dissertation courses was discussed. The recommendation will be taken to the Council of Academic Deans (CAD) to change the policy from grades of A, B, C, F, X, and IP to credit, no credit, X or IP for thesis or dissertation courses. The Council will be advised of the decision of CAD.

IV. SACS

The SACS on-site visiting team was on campus last week to review and report on SHSU's accreditation status. There were 10 visiting committee members who reviewed the University, plus 1 observer, and 1 SACS representative. The oral report given was excellent. There was one standard compliance issue – assessment. The final written report will be received in a few weeks. The University should be very proud of the outcome of the review.

V. Academic Probation, Suspension, and Termination Policy Review

There was discussion regarding item 5.03 of the policy. It is recommended that the second sentence of 5.03 be changed to read "*The committee will make a recommendation to the respective academic dean as to whether the student will be terminated or allowed to continue in the academic program.*"

There was also discussion regarding the situation when during the summer session a student is to be terminated upon receiving the third C; however, the student has paid for and enrolled in a 10-week course. Dr. Muehsam will speak with legal counsel to determine the legalities of terminating when paid for and enrolled in a longer class.

Regarding item 8.03, the question arose as to what happens if the department doesn't want a student back into the program after being terminated but the dean agrees to put the student back in. As per policy, the dean has the final say.

VI. Miscellaneous

There was discussion regarding students who are terminated from one program wanting to apply to another program. The academic dean of the terminating college blocks the student. In order for the student to be accepted into another program, the terminating dean must lift the block first. An appeal to that academic dean must be submitted to apply for readmission. The Council agreed that this procedure should stay as is.

There have been occasions when students' declaration of majors do not align with the major on their transcripts. This happens when the students change programs and do not reapply. The advisor should identify that the major aligns with the declaration of majors. There should be a check in place before the declaration of major is completed.