

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA
ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
2006-2007

Members: Fran Bender, Chair; Jim Cunningham, Matthew Guy, Barbara Norwood, Oralia Preble-Niemi, Clint Smullen, Felicia Sturzer, Terry Walters, Sandy Watson, Steve White, and Cecelia Wigel Ex-officio: Jocelyn Sanders and Linda Orth

Meeting Dates: October 2, 2006; October 30, 2006; November 27, 2006, January 8, 2007; January 29, 2007; February 19, 2007; February 26, 2007; March 26, 2007, April 2, 2007

During this academic year, the work of the Academic Standards Committee has centered on the following issues:

- Major and minor requirements

The Academic Standards Committee recommended to the Faculty Senate that the following sentence be added to the catalog: Students must complete all academic requirements, including those for the major and minor, from the same catalog year.

- Continuation Standards

The Academic Standards Committee recommends to the Faculty Senate the following change in continuation standards:

Students will be in good standing if they maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 in all UTC attempted hours, excluding developmental courses.

Among the many reasons to support this change is that requiring students to maintain a 2.0 for their entire UTC enrollment will enable students to graduate whereas the current standards mean that some students will never graduate if they get off to a poor start at UTC. Because students can take up to 56 hours with below a cumulative 2.0 GPA to continue in “good standing,” many students get themselves into a situation where there is almost no way that they can graduate even when they have completed more than 120 hours.

Further, the numbers affected by these changes are very small, support is available for those identified earlier as being in trouble under the new policy, the proposed change will serve as a wake-up call for students, the new policy will make UTC more attractive because higher standards attract better students, students well below a 2.0 drag down the entire class, and it is humane to stop students who are not succeeding early so that they do not burden themselves with student loans.

- Enforcement of catalog regulations for admissions to UTC

The Academic Standards Committee recommends to the Faculty Senate the following statement on enforcement of catalog regulations for admissions to UTC:

That the catalog regulations on application deadlines and calendar restrictions prohibiting new registrations after the first week of classes be strictly enforced.

Although the undergraduate catalog specifically states that application deadlines for new students' entrance into UTC are August 1 and December 1, respectively, and for transfer students' entrance the dates are August 15 and December 15 respectively, the actual practice is a "rolling admissions" policy. Enforcing these dates may improve student success.

Further, the current practice is to allow all students to register in courses through the second week of classes and sometimes after that. Such additions to courses mean, in many cases, that students cannot successfully complete courses when they are enrolled at such a late date. However, students registered during the first week of classes may make additions and changes to their schedules during the second week of classes. Students not registered in the first week of classes may no longer register for classes during the second week of class. No new registrations are to be processed during the second week of classes.

- Consideration of change in admission standards

The Academic Standards Committee is currently considering a change to the admission standards for incoming freshmen, a statement which will be forthcoming.

- Implementation of repeat policy

The Academic Standards Committee recommends to the Faculty Senate the following motion:

That the implementation of the previously approved motion to change the course repeat policy from five courses to three courses (approved by Faculty Senate on March 23, 2006) be moved from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008.

Other issues presented themselves to the Standards Committee this year, but these are the ones that came from the committee to the Faculty Senate.