

April 21, 2011

Final Report of the University Standards Committee to the Faculty Senate

The Standards Committee (2010/2011) was comprised of the following members:

Stuart Benkert, Music Department, Barry Dale, Physical Therapy Department, Christopher Hensley Criminal Justice Department, Lauren Ingraham, English Department, Dana Moody, Interior Design Department, Greg O’Dea, English Department, Ed Rozema, Mathematics Department, and Terry Walters, Mathematics Department, Charles S. White (Chair), Management Department..

The Standards Committee looked into several issues of the grade appeal process. The committee discovered that inconsistent rules and instructions for grade appeals are contained in the faculty handbook, student handbook and the academic catalog. Because of the inconsistencies found, the committee decided it was better to first standardize the grade appeal procedures among all governing documents before debating changes. The chair of the grade appeals committee was contacted and informed about the inconsistencies between the documents and urged to resolve these issues. No further action was taken on this item.

1. The Standards committee unanimously **approved** a motion to revise the time frame for grade appeals, so that students must initiate an appeal no later than five days after the first day of class in the semester following the term for which the grade was assigned.

2. English Competency for International Students

Assistant Vice Chancellor Freeman asked the Standards committee to consider a proposal that the University use the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) as an option for international students to demonstrate language competency. The Standards committee unanimously **approved** a motion to accept the proposal.

3. Registrar Linda Orth asked the committee to consider increasing the minimum number of credit hours required for sophomore standing from 24 to 30, to be consistent with other class standings (60 for junior standing and 90 for senior standing). The committee unanimously **approved** a motion to that effect.

The committee debated an issue in the nursing program regarding modification to “Last 24 Credit Hour Rule” at UTC for RN to BSN (Gateway) Program. The request was passed and forwarded to the Faculty senate. Kay Lindgren (Nursing) presented the rationale for the Nursing department’s request to modify the “last 24-credit hour rule” for nursing students who come into the RN or BSN program from other colleges. The question was on the adoption of this motion: “The NCLEX examination will constitute the final 24-credit hours at UTC, which would satisfy the requirement of the ‘Last 24-credit hour rule’ for the requirements of the RN to BSN degree”. The committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mr. Yancee Freeman presented a proposal to increase admission standards. This is necessary to partially offset the increase in enrollment at UTC. Another hope is to attract stronger students. There is evidence that incoming students with higher GPAs are more likely to be retained. An immediate effect of raising the GPA is a reduction of 100 to 200 students that receive automatic admission into UTC. The demographic makeup of students admitted with this new policy would not be any different than it is currently with respect to gender or race. The committee unanimously approved a motion to that effect.

Felicia Sturzer a proposal (see Addendum 1) to modify the languages that could be accepted in lieu of actually taking courses. This proposal is necessary because the language department can only test for certain foreign languages due to faculty resources. The Vote was unanimous to approve the proposal.