

EXCERPT OF FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES – APRIL 22, 2005

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Annual Report of the Educational Policy Committee

Prof. Peter Gordon (Psychology), chair of the Educational Policy Committee, presented the committee's annual report. He identified each of the topics that the committee had addressed in 2004-05 and noted what action by the Council or other bodies, if any, is recommended.

Class attendance policy. The committee recommended changes in the regulation on excused absences, growing out of questions that had been raised by student leaders about excused absences for religious holidays. This recommendation was adopted by the Council on February 11, 2005, as Resolution 2005-5.

Absence from class due to regularly organized and authorized University activities. The committee believes it may be necessary in the future to change the current policy on excused absences for extracurricular activities, as well as to formulate a policy for absences that occur because of course requirements for activities outside normal hours; however, the committee is not ready to recommend policy changes in this area at this time.

Allowable number of majors and minors. The committee recommends Council legislation that would enable undergraduates to declare a maximum of three specializations (majors, minors, and certificates) with a limit of two majors (now, only two specializations may be declared).

Tenth semester petitions. The committee recommends Council legislation to disallow petitions for a tenth semester that arise solely from the goal of obtaining a minor or a second major.

Eligibility and retention. The committee has discussed extensively the current rules for student eligibility. The committee intends to continue work in 2005-06 on this topic, which is closely related to issues of student retention.

Grading practices. The committee continues to study grading practices, and has discussed alternative methods of computing Grade Point Averages. The committee recommends that comprehensive analyses of the use of different methods for computing adjusted GPAs should be completed and disseminated to the University community, and that consideration should be given to determining criteria for awarding of distinction and highest distinction within each of the units that award bachelor's degrees.

It was agreed that Prof. Ferrell will assist the committee in developing appropriate resolutions for action by the Council next year with respect to those recommendations that require faculty legislation.