

Faculty Senate April 19, 2005, Meeting

Submitted by: David E. Long

PROPOSED NEW BUSINESS

Resolution on a Plus and Minus Grading System

To Refer to the Appropriate Committee for Proposal a Recommendation that East Carolina University Adopt a Grading System that Includes Plus and Minus Grades

Whereas, East Carolina University employs a system of grading that allows professors and instructors to enter letter grades that are limited to A, B, C, D, or F as a final grade for a student who has enrolled for a course and completed the course requirements; and

Whereas, such system of grades is at variance with ten of the sixteen institutions in the UNC system, including all of those schools that are of comparable size and standing with the exception of University of North Carolina-Charlotte; and

Whereas, it is the overwhelming consensus of faculty members at ECU that they would prefer to grade students using a system that includes plus and minus grades and allows for a much greater degree of differentiating student performance; and

Whereas, a system of plus and minus grades has been approved by the ECU Faculty Senate in the past and did not become the system for awarding grades at that time for the sole reason that the chancellor at that time did not approve it; and

Whereas, most of the outstanding academic institutions in the country that award letter grades have long employed a plus and minus system in their awarding of grades.

Therefore Be It Resolved that, it is the Faculty Senate's wish as the representative body of the ECU Faculty, that a system of grading be adopted by the University that will include plus and minus distinctions (with the possible exception of A+ and D-).

Be It Further Resolved that, the Chair of the Faculty refer this matter to the appropriate committee for the purpose of proposing the means by which to adopt such a system and report back to the Faculty Senate by the beginning of Spring semester 2006, and that the University Registrar be appointed to serve on such committee in either an official or *ex officio* capacity.

**Activities Relating to Faculty Senate Recommendations
Concerning the "Official" *University Undergraduate Catalog*
April 2005**

Campus distribution of the 2005-2006 ECU Undergraduate Catalog Interactive CD Guide and a limited number of printed catalogs is scheduled for June 2-7, 2005.

Interactive CD Guide is available at: <http://core.ecu.edu/umc/ugcatalog/index.htm>.

CD Critique Form is available at:

<http://www.ecu.edu/fsonline/AcademicCommittees/cu/CDCritiqueForm.htm>.

Faculty Senate recommendations as outlined in Faculty Senate Resolution #04-02

The online/CD version should be the official ECU catalog beginning with the 2005–2006 academic year. The catalog for the next academic year (2004–2005) will be the last official paper catalog. This recommendation assumes that recommendation 2 (below) will be completed at the time of implementation (2005–2006).

An action plan should be prepared to significantly upgrade the online catalog so that it is intuitive, functional, and aesthetic. ECU should contract with an appropriate (experienced) vendor to achieve an acceptable upgrade prior to the installation of the online catalog as the official version. The upgrade design should be evaluated by a committee of faculty, students, and administrators prior to installation.

After the official catalog becomes the online/CD version, a limited number of paper copies will be printed for internal use (advising, departmental offices, library, University Curriculum Committee, University Archives, etc.) and for individuals requesting paper copies.

Curricular changes will go into effect the semester following their approval by all campus and UNC-OP authorities. This process makes official the University's current procedures for activating new courses, changes in pre-requisites and course titles, and new programs.

Planning Process for the 2005-2006 ECU Undergraduate Catalog and Interactive CD Guide

The leadership and project team members (Darryl Davis, Elmer Poe, Rita Reaves, Sharon Bland, Diane Coltraine, Laurie Godwin, Marcia Rouse, and Ginny Sconiers) met throughout fall 2004. During this time period, a concept for the CD was created wherein the undergraduate catalog would remain in its present format but with expanded search options. (UNC-Charlotte's interactive CD was reviewed.) In addition to the undergraduate catalog, the CD would contain an "information station," modeled after the online information station at UNC-Greensboro (www.infostation.uncg.edu), with topical icons linking students to frequently asked question responses. The CD would also contain various campus videos, including a welcome from the chancellor and each academic dean; links to other campus websites, including the Advising website, which contains four-year plans for degree programs; alphabetized degree listings; and, a virtual campus walking tour, if available at the time of production. The CD will be duplicated on a Common Spot website for online access. CDs will be distributed in cardboard packaging. A label for a jewel case will be provided with CDs mailed to libraries, high school, and community college counselors for shelving if they so desire. (The jewel case will not be provided due to the cost for additional packaging for shipment.)

Action Plan for the 2005-2006 ECU Undergraduate Catalog and Interactive CD Guide

February 2005

Schedule for project completion and campus delivery drafted (driven by two factors: UCC final meeting for catalog content approval and first freshman orientation)

CD layout under development

Coordination with University Printing and Graphics for typesetting of catalog text

Consultation with other UNC institutions regarding catalog policy and distribution

Consultation with Academic Advising Council and Offices of Admission and Registrar to present CD/print concept and solicit feedback about product and UNC-Greensboro information station

Consultation with advisors and Honors Program director regarding the solicitation of student opinion of the information station currently online at UNC-Greensboro

Consultation with Materials Management staff regarding bid and production process

Video shoots in progress

Consultation with VCAF regarding storage, delivery, and inventory of CD and printed catalog

March 2005

Project completion schedule reviewed

CD packaging and label designed

Bid specifications for CD and packaging forwarded to Materials Management

Consultation with ITCS regarding likely increase in online usage

Consultation with Disability Support Services regarding ADA compliance of CD

University offices polled for numbers of CDs, perfect bound, and spiral bound catalogs needed

Consultation with University Publications to ensure that CD and packaging meet university standards

Review team (as mandated in FS #04-02) reviewed CD and provided input. Staff, faculty, and student members include Angela Anderson, Catherine Loflin, Tijjani Mohammed, Rick Niswander, Tom Powell, Karen Slough, Sarah Spencer, Jennifer Valko, and James Wilkins.

April 2005

All feedback from review team received

Final copy of electronic catalog text files transferred, links inserted, etc.

CD completed

Quality and functionality of CD verified in various campus offices

May 2005

Master CD and packaging mock-up shipped to vendor

Vendor provides quality assurance report on CD functionality

Labeling and packing proofs arrive on campus

Vendor receives approved proofs

June 2005

Replicated, packaged CDs arrive at ECU

Campus distribution of CDs and limited number of printed catalogs scheduled for June 2-7, 2005.

Create and post identical website

Faculty Welfare
Committee

Examples of Inversion, Compression, and Expansion
(All salaries are averages, 2003-2004 Comparisons)

1. Inversion				
	ECU Dept. A.	Public Doc. Univ. (same kind as A)	ECU minus Pub Doc	OP Peer Univ. (same kind as A)
Full Prof.	83,010	102,082	-19,072	90,022
Assoc. Prof.	65,549	73,091	-7,542	67,680
Ass't. Prof.	66,609	65,636	973	55,843
New Ass't.	71,000	65,969	5,031	
2. Compression				
	ECU Dept. B	Public Doc. Univ. (same kind as B)	ECU minus Pub Doc	OP Peer Univ. (same kind as B)
Full Prof.	69,782	89,056	-19,274	75,127
Assoc. Prof.	55,409	61,773	-6,364	59,573
Ass't. Prof.	49,479	50,257	-778	45,168
New Ass't.	50,125	49,998	127	43,978
Instructor	51,410	38,224	13,186	32,721
3. Expansion				
	ECU Dept. C	Public Doc. Univ. (same kind as C)	ECU minus Pub Doc	OP Peer Univ. (same kind as C)
Full Prof.	87,877	75,802	12,075	67,476
Assoc. Prof.	62,501	58,906	3,595	54,585
Ass't. Prof.	47,540	48,789	-1,249	46,459
New Ass't.	50,000	48,119	1,881	44,679
4. Depression				
	ECU Dept. D	Public Doc. Univ. (same kind as D)	ECU minus Pub Doc	OP Peer Univ. (same kind as D)
Full Prof.	60,593	86,449	-25,856	no data
Assoc. Prof.	52,994	62,750	-9,756	
Ass't. Prof.	50,145	52,614	-2,469	
New Ass't.		52,492		
Instructor				
5. No Obvious Problem				
	ECU Dept. E	Public Doc. Univ. (same kind as E)	ECU minus Pub Doc	OP Peer Univ. (same kind as E)
Full Prof.	86,732	85,322	1,410	76,420
Assoc. Prof.	61,061	62,600	-1,539	58,984
Ass't. Prof.	52,675	52,004	671	46,754
New Ass't.		51,736		45,425
Instructor				