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Academic Policy Committee Report - September 20, 2007

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ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007, 2:00 P.M.
4th FLOOR ANDY HOLT TOWER
REPORT

Present: Ben Bates (Chair), Monique Anderson, Basil Antar, Douglas Blaze, Ralph Brockett, Vijay Chellaboina, Nicholas Cook, Kathy Cooper, Mark DeKay, Jan Lee, Matthew Murray, Stefanie Ohnesorg, Kay Reed.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Ben Bates, Chair. Bates reviewed the bylaws of the group.

1. Proposal from College of Law on Reporting of Cumulative GPA for Law Students.

The College of Law proposed that grade point averages (GPAs) for law students change to be rounded to the nearest tenth point. Monique Anderson, University Registrar, talked with the committee about how all GPAs are currently rounded to the highest hundredths of a point. Anderson also stated that the computing programmers had been consulted about the possible change for law students. The current grading policy for law students does not parallel that of graduate or undergraduate level students in other ways. Law courses have a numerical grading system rather than letter grades. Following a discussion of the proposal, the committee asked that the College of Law prepare a specific proposal for changes to the Graduate Catalog text on page 22 under "Law Courses" and on page 154 under "Doctor of Jurisprudence."

2. Plus/Minus Grading Proposal.

The committee discussed the grading scale that had been approved by the Undergraduate Council on Tuesday, September 18, 2007. The grading scale incorporates minus grades (B-, C-, D-) in the grading scale for undergraduate courses, plus a D+ grade as well. The committee discussed the rationale that was presented by the Provost's Office for the change in undergraduate grades. The committee asked that feedback be solicited from Graduate Deans, Department Heads, and Graduate Program Directors concerning whether a similar grading scale should be considered for graduate courses.

3. Proposal on IELTS.

A brief introduction on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) was made and copies of the IELTS Handbook were distributed. The committee will continue the discussion of a proposal to include the IELTS score as an acceptable measure of ability using the English language for graduate admission on applicants whose native language is not English.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.