

Student Regulations Committee
Minutes
Thursday, March 31, 2016

Voting Members	Affiliation	Role
Richard Barke	Public Policy	
Al Ferri	ME	Chair
Ty Herrington	LMC	
Gordon Kingsley	Public Policy	
Andrea Laliberte	ISyE	
Joe Montoya	Biology	
Laura Margaret Burbach	UG Student	
Pavan Thaker	GRAD Student	
Adam Greenstein	UG Student	
Non-Voting Members	Affiliation	Role
Reta Pikowsky	Registrar	Secretary
John Stein	Vice President-SL and DOS	
Doug Nation	Faculty Exec. Board Liaison	
Standing Guests	Affiliation	Role
Steven Girardot	VProvost-UG EDU	
Jeremy Gray	Registrar's Office	

There are nine voting members. There are five needed to reach a quorum.

Present: Barke (PUBP), Ferri (ME), Herrington (LMC), Laliberte (ISyE), Burbach (UG Student), Thaker (GR Student), Greenstein (UG Student), Pikowsky (REG), Nation (Exec. Board Liaison)

Guests: Girardot (VP-UG Education), Gray (REG), Goldbart (COS), Kohn (VP-Enrollment Services)

1. A motion was made to approve the Minutes from February 25, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.
2. The Dean of the College of Sciences and the Vice Provost for Enrollment Services Change of Major regulation met with the Committee to discuss a proposal for a change to the Change of Major regulation. See Appendix A. The Dean of the College of Sciences presented information that came out of discussions with the College Deans, the Associate Deans, and others on campus. The proposal relates to concern about students during the admission process and at FASET completing changes of major prior to receiving guidance and additional information from the Schools about the admitted major and why other options might or might not better serve the student. The primary concern is whether, this early in the admission and matriculation process incoming freshmen are making the most informed decision possible about their intended majors.

The purpose of the proposed change is to not allow changes of major during the admission process and to not allow them as well during FASET or during the first term of enrollment. The proposal would allow the student to make a change of major in the second term of enrollment. During the first term of enrollment, the School/College to which the student was initially admitted would have the opportunity to explore the academic benefits of the admitted major, the possible career paths in that major, and other aspects of that program of study that could meet the student's needs and interests.

There was a very long discussion about numerous possible implications of this change. Committee members wondered if the proposal is too broad and does more than it should to address possible localized problems. It was noted that there may or may not be hard evidence of applicants gaming the system – applying for one major, then changing immediately to another. However, it was also noted that things continue to evolve in terms of where capacity is in programs at Tech and how selective, or not, some majors will be in the future. It was noted that this discussion is not just about a current state of affairs, but also about what kinds of issues may be developing in the next two to three years and beyond.

Different models are used around the country to determine how students are admitted, whether to an institution or to a major. There are varying rules about whether students can change majors once admitted. This process seems to vary depending upon the type and size of institution and how selective it is. An example was given of the BME program at Johns Hopkins which is the number one program in the country, and is one for which non-BME students cannot change majors to BME. If you are not admitted to the program as an incoming student, you have no chance of changing to that major once enrolled. There are positives and negatives to all of these models. None is the perfect solution.

One concern of Committee members was whether this delay in making a change in major would impact the student's time to graduation, especially if Spring semester courses were still tied to requirements for the admitted major. The Registrar noted that with good planning and productive discussions with students in the Fall leading in to Phase I registration for Spring at the end of October, the impact on the Spring schedule could be mitigated. The new major could be effective Spring, if submitted during the first week of the term, or in the next term if submitted after Phase II registration. There was some discussion of how this would operate. The Registrar suggested that the Committee not become too focused on the mechanics of how it would operate, but rather explore the policy and come back to business processes at a later point. There would be different ways to make the policy operational if approved and there are existing tools such as DegreeWorks that could facilitate the student's exploration.

Committee members wondered whether data had been or could be gathered to get a better sense of what change of major activity has occurred in the past and whether that might inform the question more fully. A commitment was made to follow up on this after the meeting so that the continued discussion could be better focused.

3. The following items were on the agenda but there was not time to address them. They will be added to the next agenda.
 - a. Class absence due to illness (see handout).
 - b. Auditing of classes (see handout).
 - c. Readmission and Leave of Absence (see handout).
 - d. Make-up classes policy (see handout).
 - e. Course requirements policy (see handout).
4. Next meeting.
 - a. Thursday, April 7, 3:00 PM.

Adjourned,

Al Ferri, ME, Chair

Appendix A – March 31, 2016 Minutes

March 24, 2016

Proposed new language for the Student Regulations Committee in yellow highlight below. To be effective with the 17-18 Catalog (Summer 2017).

VI. Scholastic Regulations

F. Change of Major

1. Undergraduate students, **with the exception of entering freshmen**, by filing the required form, will be permitted one unrestricted transfer between majors (including undecided) until they have accumulated credit for sixty hours. After sixty hours or upon subsequent request for transfer, the transfer will be permitted at the discretion of the school that the student is seeking to enter. Students who transfer from another institution to pursue a degree at Georgia Tech will be permitted to change their major only at the discretion of the school that the student is seeking to enter. Transfer students are not eligible for the one unrestricted change of major. (Note: Certain majors, because of high enrollment, have been granted a waiver of the one unrestricted transfer regulation. Students should consult with the individual school concerning its current transfer policy.)

Schools with Change-of-Major restrictions:

[Industrial and Systems Engineering](#)

[Mechanical Engineering](#)

2. Graduate students, by filing the required form, may transfer with the concurrence of the schools involved and the graduate dean.
3. Students who change their majors must complete the degree requirements in the Catalog that was effective for the term in which the change of major became official, or any subsequent Catalog.
4. **Admitted freshmen will not be allowed to submit a request for a change of major until they enter their second term of enrollment. This includes a change of major within the student's current College. For freshmen admitted for Summer, the second term of enrollment will be considered Spring. All other restrictions also apply.**