

Student Regulations Committee
February 9, 2004
Minutes

Present: D. Anderson (UG Student), Kent Barefield (CHEM), R. Barke (PUBPOL), P. Benkeser (BME) – Chair, G. Di Sabatino (Student Affairs), L. Jacobs (CEE), D. Kang (UG Student), J. McIver (Registrar), and B. Walker (LIB)

Absent: J. Benin (Grad Student) and T. Habetler (ECE)

Guest: D. Williamson (Registrar), C. Carson (Registrar)

1. The Committee heard a presentation from Candy Carson on the new on-line version of the Institute Catalog and the Student Rules and Regulations. The Committee was favorably impressed with the results, and was in favor of replacing the printed “two-year” catalog in the future with a “one-year” on-line-only version. The only suggestion for improvement the Committee had to the on-line format was to make it more obvious to the user the significance of the “amendments” links.
2. The Committee discussed a proposal from the Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee to modify Section V. of the Student Rules and Regulations to include a new grade substitution policy. Discussion included the following observations.
 - The motivation behind the proposed changes is the desire to improve the retention of students who have a difficult time adjusting to the academic rigors of the first-year of undergraduate study.
 - Many of Georgia Tech’s peer institutions have some form of a grade substitution policy.
 - There is considerable concern amongst both faculty and students that such a policy may reward bad behavior and lessen the value a student’s GPA, honor status, etc.
 - The proposed policy would not affect eligibility for the Hope Scholarship.
 - If implemented, students who would be eligible to take advantage of such a policy need good academic advisement. However, such advisement is difficult to mandate.
 - Most first year students take courses above the 1000-level.

The Committee reached a consensus that if a grade substitution policy were to be implemented, that it:

- should not be restricted to 1000-level courses,
- should only be available for use in courses taken in the first two terms in residence,
- require the course to be repeated within the student’s first four terms in residence

The Committee unanimously recommended that the attached proposal be circulated for comment from both faculty and students. The Committee will review the comments received at its 15 March 2004 meeting (10am, UAW Bldg Rm 2110).

Proposed modifications to the Student Rules and Regulations to implement a policy on Grade Substitution. (added text, ~~deleted text~~)

V. Grades and Scholastic Average

A. Grades

B. Academic Average

The academic average (or grade point average) is calculated as the ratio of the total number of quality points earned to the total number of credit hours in which a final letter grade has been assigned.

C. Grade Substitution

1. First-time freshman students who receive a grade of D or F in a course within their first two terms in residence are eligible to repeat the course and have the original grade excluded from the computation of academic average. Grade substitution may be used only once per course, with a maximum of two courses total.
2. The course must be repeated at Georgia Tech within the student's first four terms in residence. The application for grade substitution must be filed with the Registrar's Office no later than the deadline for withdrawing from a course during the student's next term in residence after the course is repeated.
3. The original course and grade will continue to appear on the student's transcript, with a notation that the course was repeated and that the original grade is not included in computation of the academic average. Credit for the course will be counted only once.
4. If the revised academic average results in a change in academic standing for any term, then the revised standing will be reflected on the student's transcript. If standing is changed from Dismissal to a higher standing, it will be recorded as "*standing from Dismissal*" and the dismissal will continue to be counted with respect to regulations and policies related to Withdrawal and Readmission.
5. A course is not eligible for grade substitution if the student was found guilty of academic misconduct in that course.
6. The grade substitution policy (including, but not limited to, course eligibility, number of courses, time limits, and deadlines) is not subject to exceptions and may not be petitioned to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.