

Faculty Senate/All University Committee Report (2015-2016)

Committee:	Academic Affairs	Prepared By:	Prentice Chandler	Date: November 2015
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Committee Members at the Meeting:	<p>Chia-Chi Ho, Ratee Apana, Deborah Page, Stacey Hummeldorf, Carol Wheeler-Strother, Stephanie King, Prentice Chandler</p> <p>Guests: Maggie McKinley, Daniel O'Connor, Chris Cole, Andrew Griggs</p>
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<p>Topics Discussed: provide a brief description of each</p>	<p><u>1.NCAA Academic Integrity (Maggie McKinley):</u></p> <p>NCAA has standards that must be met related to policies that address academic misconduct. The University has a responsibility to have in place and FOLLOW our policies. Faculty are encouraged to fill out the proper forms related to student misconduct. The faculty retains the right to decide the “punishment” for the misconduct. It just needs to be consistent and documented. This really is the expectation of all faculty for all students. The student code of conduct is being revised as well.</p> <p><u>2. Midterm Review (Daniel O'Connor):</u></p> <p>The AAC support the practice of providing students with grade information at midterm (prior to the withdraw deadline) so that they can withdraw from the course if they are not doing well. There were questions about what to do about faculty who do not use BlackBoard gradebook as it is not a mandate that all faculty use it. Some on the AAC felt that more education on how to use the gradebook in BlackBoard might be needed.</p> <p><u>3. Grade Forgiveness (Daniel O'Connor):</u></p> <p>The AAC is in favor of this initiative but did have some questions before a full endorsement could be given. Concerns raised by the AAC: 1. Decisions need to go through a faculty member not just the academic advisor, 2. How does this impact future licensure (if UC has to sign off on a student)?, 3. How does this possibly affect financial aid. (document included below)</p> <p><u>4. Prior Learning Assessment: (AAC)</u></p> <p>What was provided was the explanation of PLA in Draft format dated 11.12.15 from the Ohio Department of Higher Learning. The AAC feels that the questions that they had back in 2013 related to the PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT POLICY OUTLINE DRAFT have still not been addressed in this most current draft.</p> <p><u>5. Competency Based Learning: (AAC)</u></p> <p>This committee is not in favor of mandating a competency based curriculum for the University of Cincinnati.</p> <p>Per the CBA faculty own the curriculum and a mandate like this would violate the AAUP contract.</p>
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Action Items: List item and attach supporting document if action requires such background	
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Describe action needed on items above (discussion and input, vote, etc):	By Whom:
	<input type="checkbox"/> By Faculty Senate <input type="checkbox"/> By Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> Others (List-)
Next Meeting: 1/4/15	

When complete, save your report with the committee name and report date as the file name. Please send the file to Tracy Hermann (tracy.herrmann@uc.edu) and Christie Joslin (Christie.Joslin@uc.edu). Thank you!

Academic Forgiveness

Academic Forgiveness seeks to address multiple issues students face when trying to utilize UC's remedial [Grade Replacement](#) policy. Students often face situations where they are paying for semester hours to retake courses in which they performed poorly. In several instances, students attempt to retake courses after changing their majors as a means of repairing their damaged GPA. Some of these courses are no longer graduation requirements for their current academic program, and retaking them not only delays a timely graduation, but also may put them in an even bigger hole as substantial improvement the second time around is far from a simple task. With that in mind, we have developed the following as a potential framework to address this issue, and hope that future implementation can be accomplished through continued collaboration with stakeholders at the university:

- Students at the University of Cincinnati will have the opportunity to utilize Grade Replacement **OR** "Grade Forgiveness" for up to 10 semester hours. On the current Grade Replacement forms students are required to submit when retaking courses, the option to use "Forgiveness" on a class will be installed. If a student decides to use Forgiveness for a class, the following conditions apply.
 1. The student must have received a D or an F in the course
 2. The student must have changed their major since receiving such grades in the course or courses.
 3. If the student uses Grade Forgiveness for a course, they will be restricted from registering for that course in the future.
 4. A student must obtain permission from their academic advisor to use Grade Forgiveness on a course.
 5. If a student uses Grade Forgiveness on a course, the grade received in that course will be negated from calculation into the student's cumulative GPA.
 6. Semester hours for courses that a student uses Grade Replacement or Grade Forgiveness on will be calculated aggregately. If a student uses Grade Forgiveness on a three credit hour course, they will be limited to seven remaining semester hours for which they can use Grade Forgiveness or Grade Replacement. The same applies in the reverse scenario.

Midterm Review

The concept of mid-term grades has been discussed by UC stakeholders in the recent past. The [University of Cincinnati Campus Completion Plan](#), approved by the Board of Trustees in the summer of 2014, suggested implementation of mid-term grades three separate times. Mid-term grades would require professors to post informal letter grades to Blackboard one week before the official withdrawal date and will represent the hypothetical grade the professor would assign a student if the semester were to end on that day. Various institutions, such as the [University of Buffalo](#), [Carnegie Mellon University](#), the [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#), and the [University of Nevada-Las Vegas](#) utilize mid-term grades as an early warning system for their students and as a tool for their academic advisors. These institutions provide useful examples of how such a system might work at the University of Cincinnati.