Deleting Students who do not attend first day
6-21-2006

Georgia Southern University

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Recommended Citation
Georgia Southern University, "Deleting Students who do not attend first day 6-21-2006" (2006). Faculty Senate Index. 94.
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Response:

Another update on the issue of deleting students who do not attend the first day proposal: a survey was completed by 289 faculty, and a similar survey was completed by 3,543 students. Seventy percent of the faculty, but only 40 percent of the students, agree we need some sort of a policy about attending the first day. Students overwhelmingly (70 percent compared to faculty’s 40 percent), do not want to be deleted if they do not attend the first day. Both groups felt the worse downfall would be inadvertent deleting of students with valid excuses. Of the students who said they did not attend one or more classes the first day of last semester, the primary reason was personal emergency followed closely by nothing important ever happens on the first day. And I guess that should give us some food for thought. Comments were voluminous, as I was somewhat worried about; 220 pages of transcribed comments from the students, and faculty was somewhat shorter. Basically, the gist of things in terms of faculty comments were, we can go along with it, a) if it be guaranteed that students would not be getting dropped inadvertently, and b) there is no extra work. To quote several students, “it sucks.” In any event, in discussing this matter with Dr. Bleicken, the policy will not be implemented for Spring ‘07. Why? Because they are going to be installing a new BANNER software system during Christmas break, and they do not want to do anything else at that point.