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The Original and Request for Automatically Dropping Students from Class

Submitted by Clara Krug

6/3/2007

Question:

When the Senate first learned of the proposed First-Day Drop Policy, Registrar Michael Deal told senators that one or more faculty members had requested the policy. However, in a memo from Dean Jane Rhoades Hudak (March 27, 2007), CLASS faculty members learned that the original request had been "that students be removed from the roll if they missed the first two days of class without having notified the professor in advance of the reason why."

1. At what point did the policy requested by this faculty member change to the current one?
2. Who decided to change it?
3. Why?

Rationale:

First-day drop affects faculty in all units.

Response:

Linda Bleicken provided the information below from Mike Deal.
Pat Humphrey, Moderator

According to Mike Deal, the Enrollment Management Council considered a proposal made by a faculty member in Fall 2005. The original proposal, in fact, did call for students to be removed from the class roll "if they missed the first two days of class

without having notified the professor in advance." When considering this proposal, the Enrollment Management Council realized that waiting until after the second missed day of class would not allow enough time for other students to learn of the available opening and register for the class. For example, a "missing student" enrolled in a class that meets on Tuesday and Thursday would not be dropped until after the Thursday class meeting. Since the drop/add period ends on Thursday, there would not be an opportunity for a student to be added until after Thursday's class. The second concern--and perhaps the more important--is that students adding the course after the second day would already have missed a significant portion of the course.

Minutes: 6/20/2007: Clara Krug (CLASS) submitted and RFI about the deleting of classes for not attending the first day. The original proposal, which had been passed to CLASS faculty members from Dean Hudak, was that students be removed from the roll if they missed the first two days of a class without having notified the professor in advance of the reason why. It was changed when this policy, as all policies like it, was referred to Enrollment Management, who were concerned that two class days, in some cases, especially for a Tuesday/Thursday class, would require that we extend add/drop period, which would be totally unworkable because students have probably missed too much of a chunk at that point.

Godfrey Gibbison (COBA) asked for an update on how the experimental round of first day drop went. Registrar Mike Deal was not present, and Provost Linda Bleicken noted that she did not have full information, but said "107 students were able to get into classes that they would not have had otherwise. I do think that it went fairly smoothly, according to what I heard, so that's what I can tell you."