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TO: Dr. Richard Flynn, Chair, Senate Executive Committee
FROM: Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D., President 
DATE: November 1, 2016
SUBJECT: **Faculty Senate Recommendation: Early Alert Changes**

I am pleased to report that the Senate recommends approval of the motion presented at the October 31, 2016, Faculty Senate meeting.

MOTION:

The Faculty Senate endorses the following proposed changes to the early alert system, effective Fall 2017:

1. The name of the alerts will change to “academic alerts” to distinguish early alerts from the growing number of other alerts students receive. Specifically, the change is designed to prevent confusion between “early alerts” and “eagle alerts.”
2. Students will receive alerts or an indication that no alert is warranted based on their enrollment in specific courses. This is a change from the current system, which bases alerts on students’ classification as freshmen. More specifically:
 - a. The current early alert “satisfactory” will no longer be an option. All other alerts will remain.
 - b. Faculty are encouraged to submit academic alerts as soon as students exhibit behavior not conducive to success in the course. The current faculty due date for submission of early alerts (the 34th day in fall or spring) will remain for the new academic alert system. Faculty must submit “no alert” if students have not merited one as the deadline approaches. This ensures that faculty have submitted and allows for follow up in cases where they have not. Students will not receive a pop-up message when they log into My.GeorgiaSouthern for “no alert” but will be able to see the “no alert” submission in WINGS.
3. Faculty will submit academic alerts for all courses in Areas A-E of the core curriculum.

4. Departments with oversight of courses will have the option of including additional courses in the academic alert system. Course additions submitted by April 1 will be effective the following fall semester.

RATIONALE:

Alerts are most appropriate for introductory courses in which students often struggle and/or which are gateways for progression in the major. The current system, based on students' classification, inefficiently identifies students who may be struggling in these courses. Some students for which faculty wish to submit are not able to receive alerts (and indeed, a growing number of students enter Georgia Southern as sophomores due to AP or dual enrolled credit and never receive alerts). In other cases, faculty end up with a small number of students classified as freshmen in an upper division course for which early alerts are less appropriate. In this case, they often only find out they need to submit when they receive a pop-up message or communication from their dean's office. This change will simplify the process and align it with its intended purpose.

Areas A-E of the core will capture the majority of courses departments would choose to add, without requiring action on departments' part. The opt-in process for courses beyond Areas A-E of the core is designed to allow departments to identify gateway and other courses where alerts are most appropriate.

On behalf of an an-hoc committee called by the provost to examine early alerts: Dan Bauer, Chris Caplinger, Michelle Cawthorn, Rob Clouse, Amy Hackney, Marshall Ransom

gm

c: Dr. Jean Bartels
Dr. Diana Cone
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Dr. Chris Caplinger
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