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Solution to No Adjusted GPA Implementation Program

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Solution to No Adjusted GPA Implementation Program
Submitted by Mark Yanochik/Academic Standards Committee
10/9/2006

Motion:

The Academic Standards Committee recommends that students who were admitted to Georgia Southern University before Fall 2007 be allowed to convert their Adjusted GPA to Cumulative GPA by freezing their current Adjusted GPA. The current Adjusted GPA will then be used as a new baseline with which to calculate student's future Cumulative GPA.

Rationale:

During the Academic Standards Committee meeting of August 11, 2006, Mike Deal (Registrar) reported on the current status of implementing the “no adjusted GPA” policy. According to Mr. Deal, technical problems have arisen with the Banner system in implementing this new policy. Banner cannot accommodate separate GPA calculations for different students based on the student’s date of first enrollment. The Registrar’s Office has worked with IT Services during the past year to arrive at a solution to the problem, but to no avail. As a possible solution to the problem, the administration made the following suggestion. For students being admitted beginning Fall 2007, a “no adjusted GPA” policy will be applied. For students with an adjusted GPA at the beginning of Fall 2007 (i.e., students admitted before Fall 2007), their adjusted GPA would be frozen at that time. This frozen adjusted GPA would then serve as a new baseline with which to calculate the student’s future non-adjusted (cumulative) GPA. A motion to adopt this proposal was made, and seconded, by the Academic Standards Committee during the August 11, 2006 meeting. This motion was unanimously approved by the ASC.
Senate Response:

Approved by the Faculty Senate 10-24-2006: I am pleased to report that the Senate unanimously recommends approval of the motion below presented by Dr. Mark Yanochik, Chair, Academic Standards Committee, at the October 24, 2006, Faculty Senate meeting.

MOTION: The Academic Standards Committee recommends that students who were admitted to Georgia Southern University before Fall 2007 be allowed to convert their Adjusted GPA to Cumulative GPA by freezing their current Adjusted GPA. The current Adjusted GPA will then be used as a new baseline with which to calculate student's future Cumulative GPA.

RATIONALE: During the Academic Standards Committee meeting of August 11, 2006, Mike Deal (Registrar) reported on the current status of implementing the "no adjusted GPA" policy. According to Mr. Deal, technical problems have arisen with the Banner system in implementing this new policy. Banner cannot accommodate separate GPA calculations for different students based on the student’s date of first enrollment. The Registrar’s Office has worked with IT Services during the past year to arrive at a solution to the problem, but to no avail. As a possible solution to the problem, the administration made the following suggestion. For students being admitted beginning Fall 2007, a “no adjusted GPA” policy will be applied. For students with an adjusted GPA at the beginning of Fall 2007 (i.e., students admitted before Fall 2007), their adjusted GPA would be frozen at that time. This frozen adjusted GPA would then serve as a new baseline with which to calculate the student’s future non-adjusted (cumulative) GPA. A motion to adopt this proposal was made, and seconded, by the Academic Standards Committee during the August 11, 2006 meeting. This motion was unanimously approved by the ASC.

8. Motion on Adjusted Grade Point Average, Mark Yanochik (COBA), Academic Standards Committee Chair: Yanochick read the following motion: The Academic Standards Committee recommends that students who are admitted to Georgia Southern University before fall of 2007 be allowed to convert their adjusted GPA to cumulative GPA by freezing their current adjusted GPA. The current adjusted GPA will then be used as a new baseline with which to calculate students' future cumulative GPA.

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: She reminded senators, that as a committee recommendation, this motion did not require a second and that, as maker of the motion, Yanochick had the floor for initial discussion.

Mark Yanochik (COBA): He presented a rationale for the motion. It resulted from a problem associated with BANNER. BANNER does not have the capability of computing
GPAs for students who have different admission dates. After discussion, the Registrar’s office and IT services proposed this solution. Members of the Academic Standards Committee approved it unanimously.

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: She reported that Dr. Amy Heaston had discussed the motion and the subject at a recent meeting of the Student Government Association. The students had brought up some good questions, which Dean of Students Georj Lewis had forwarded to Humphrey:

• What would be the impact on some of the honors programs?

All of those are currently based on cumulative GPAs, not adjusted GPAs, anyway.

• What would be the impact on course withdrawals or course repeats?

Withdrawals would probably go up. But, when you think about W, D’s, and F’s, the overall number of course repeats probably wouldn’t change at all.

Norman Schmidt (COST): He asked if we may make some exceptions and then calculate those averages by hand.

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: She responded that it might be “a bookkeeping nightmare” for the Registrar’s office.

Norman Schmidt (COST): He was interested in possible exceptions for borderline cases. For example, a student might petition to replace a grade.

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: She reported that members of the Academic Standards Committee had discussed that option several years ago and that the Registrar’s office said, “Absolutely not.” It would require too much manpower. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously. Humphrey reminded advisors to inform students of this change.

President’s Response: Approved by the President 10-26-2006: Following review of the recommendation adopted by the Faculty Senate at the October 24, 2006, Faculty Senate meeting, as provided in your memo of October 25, 2006, I have approved the motion below presented to the Senate by Dr. Mark Yanochik, Chair of the Academic Standards Committee.

MOTION: The Academic Standards Committee recommends that students who were admitted to Georgia Southern University before Fall 2007 be allowed to convert their Adjusted GPA to Cumulative GPA by freezing their current Adjusted GPA. The current
Adjusted GPA will then be used as a new baseline with which to calculate student’s future Cumulative GPA.