

## ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, October 13, 2025  
2:30p.m. | Campus Commons 2300

Present: Chapin, Couch, Etheridge-Woodson, Han, Heiny, Karlin, Leatherman, Leonard, Mannelo, Newman, Paytoe Gbayee, Trask

Zoom: Garrett

Absent: Gershwin, Muller

Guest: Mikay Elliot

Call to Order 2:30pm

Approval of the Agenda approved without objection

Approval of the September 29, 2025, meeting minutes approved without objection

Announcements/Chair's Report (from Leatherman for Gershwin):

### **Upcoming Policy Proposals (to be discussed 10/27/25):**

#### **1. Graduate School Policy Proposal:**

Cindy Wesley, Associate Dean of Academics at the Graduate School, will be joining us for our next meeting 10/27/25 to present and discuss the following proposed policy change:

**Policy Proposal Request:** *Request changing the definition of full-time graduate enrollment to 6 credits and part-time graduate enrollment to 3 credits - for federal financial aid purposes* ([Graduate School Full or Part-Time Enrollment Status](#) folder)

**Proposal Summary:** The Graduate Council agreed last spring to change the definition of full-time graduate enrollment to 6 credits and part-time to 3 credits for federal financial aid purposes. The Graduate School has data showing that UNC graduate students take an average of 6 - 7 credits per semester. There's also a list of graduate programs that will find the change helpful, including: Dance Education MA, Theatre Education MA, Math Education MA, MBA, EDD programs, and others that draw working professionals.

#### **2. Academic Appeals Procedure Policy Changes:**

Gershwin will meet with Academic Appeals Chair Thomas Endres to discuss the proposed changes based on previous work. At the 10/27/25 meeting, APC will be updated on the next steps- ([Academic Appeals Policies](#) folder).

#### Reports from Councils

Graduate Council (Cieminski) – No report

Liberal Arts Council (Muller) – At LAC meeting on 9.29, the Council decided that the mapping chart in the syllabus templates on the website which has been suggested is now required on all course approval and teaching syllabi. Use of this mapping chart has become quite standard practice and inclusion of it will increase consistency in UNC general education

syllabi. The website is being updated to reflect this change, and this update will be included in the Spring 2026 contributions memo, along with the added requirement of the in-syllabus

IS/MS alignment chart (rather than the mapping chat) approved in Spring 2025. Syllabi reviewed in ISR AY 25-26, will not need to be updated to meet requirements, but a reminder of the need to do so will be included in the summer 2026 ISR memos.

The Council approved three courses post final ISR review to be reinstated into the LACurriculum beginning AY 26-27. We approved GEOG 218 after realizing we reviewed an outdated syllabus in ISR, and a review of the submitted Fall 2025 teaching syllabus determined that it meets requirements. We approved PVA 152 after identifying that noticed non-standard wording on the syllabus was not in the required state gtP statement. We approved ESCI 200 after receiving the required updated teaching syllabus which now meet gtP/LAC requirements.

The Council reviewed MAS 260 which will be a course delivered in conjunction with District 6 and made recommendations for better alignment with gtP/LAC categories.

The Council is working with VPES and DUS on a framework for challenge “exams” for LAC course. We are still working with the registrar on a variety of issues. The council discussed possible changes to Curriculum Category Committee membership and determined these need to remain the same unless bylaws and board policy are updated. VPES and DUS Etheridge-Woodson will follow up on filling vacancies. Nealy all updates to the current LAC website have been completed. We are still in discussions on the layout of LAC intra and internet pages. The council began a review of all aspects of the student indirect assessment survey and will invite Director of Assessment, Chad Bebee’s OIRE liaison to the 10/21 Council meeting to work on ironing out the process.

Bebee, Wood, and Muller met with PVA around PVA 152 to talk about their AY 24-25 direct assessment process and data as well as the Council required CO2-CO3 conversion of the course. Some collaborative next steps were identified.

Professional Education Council (Paytoe Gbayee) – No report

Undergraduate Council (Karlin) – The Undergraduate Council will be meeting tomorrow.

Corrine Wieben will present changes to a couple Honors course and the council identify the Fall 2025 Undergraduate commencement speakers, that will be sent to Anna Green.

Student Government Association (Baxter) – No report

### Special Reports

### Special Order

### Old Business

**Guest: Mikay Elliott, Academic and Advising, Division of Student Academic Success**

APC Submission Date: September 09, 2025

**Request:** Revise Academic Standing Language from “*Academic Probation*” to “*Academic Standing Warning*”

- 09/29/25 APC Motioned and approved to change “*Academic Probation*” to “*Academic Warning*”
- APC Sent tracked/suggested changes to Codification 10/7/25
- Codification reviewed and suggested changes to the academic standing language. See [Academic Standing Change-COD 10-8-25.docx](#)

**Notes from Codification:**

Codification does not like this change, yet we understand why it has come forward.

1. Probation and warning mean two completely different things: you receive a warning; you are placed on probation (a status)
2. Several areas where a warning is used do not follow academic practice. For example - if warning is to "alert you" what is the point of grade forgiveness?
3. It seems like we are trying to make one word do the job of three
4. Lastly, we prefer 'probation', yet if it must be changed we like 'notice' better

- Elliot explained the university's academic standing policies, noting that students are placed on academic probation when their cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, with a 24-credit period to improve their GPA.
  - She proposed changing the terminology from "academic probation" to a less triggering term, citing feedback from students, NACADA, and further research.
- Elliot explained that many institutions are moving away from using "probation" due to student confusion and negative connotations.
  - The Codification committee expressed concerns about using "warning" as it might not be taken seriously by students.
- The committee agrees that "probation" should be removed, however they are unsure of what term to use instead.
  - Newman noted that regardless of the chosen term, the policies would need to be rewritten due to the complexity of the language and its context in the policy.
- It was noted that students may not fully understand the nuances of the term “probation,” often associating it with non-academic or disciplinary contexts.
  - Students with a probation history in a judiciary perspective can be triggered by the term and is a reason behind the proposal.
- Couch asked about program level probation and suggested discussing this change with programs.
  - Elliot shared that some programs have higher GPA thresholds and is open to hearing from programs and the Graduate Council.
- Karlin added that the university’s current financial situation may affect advising approaches, stressing the importance of clear terminology.

- Couch mentioned that changing the term would require a comprehensive catalog review and collaboration with academic units.
- A survey to receive faculty feedback before approving recommendations was proposed.
- Members agreed that the project would involve multiple stakeholders and require someone to lead it, following a process similar to one led by Newman last year.
  - Financial aid would be a stakeholder since they use the term “probation” outside of academics
  - This person would have to look across all parts of the university.
- Leonard asked if the term “warning” already appears elsewhere in the catalog.
  - It was shared that “probation” appears more frequently than “warning” across in the catalog
- Etheridge-Woodson shared that probation is defined in multiple ways only one of which involves criminal justice and UNC defines probation as a period in which students may face consequences if performance does not improve.
- Chapin highlighted the difference between the formal definition of the term and students’ perceptions of it.
- Leatherman suggests tabling the discussion until stakeholder feedback is gathered, possibly with an APC liaison.
  - Elliot will be able to share additional information and studies on the topic.

#### New Business

##### **Division of Student Academic Success:**

Mikay Elliott, Academic and Advising Success Strategist and Academic Review Coordinator,  
APC Submission Date: September 30, 2025

##### **Policy Proposal Request:**

[PROPOSAL - Summer Term Pin Requirement for AP students.docx](#)

**Proposal Language:** “Students with an academic standing code of P1, PC or PA (accounting for a cumulative GPA of less than a 2.0) will be required to meet with an academic advisor to remove a registration hold.”

They request that the summer registration PIN be revised based on feedback from the Office of the

- Leatherman asked about differences in registration terminology.
  - Couch explained that the term “hold” is used by various parts of the university.
  - Elliot noted that holds are applied to students classified as P1.
- Leatherman followed up with whether students understand the reason for their holds.
  - Couch shared that can view holds but may not know where to find the details.
  - He also shared that students with holds receive multiple emails prior to registration and Elliot’s office is directing students to units or the appropriate party to address the hold.
- Couch asked about outreach to students on probation (P1, PC, PA).
  - Elliot shared that they encourage students to respond to emails and engage with support services.

- Heiny asked when they anticipate putting the hold in place.
  - Elliot stated that she was anticipating them to begin in March, before summer registration.
- Couch and Heiny clarified that the holds are general and will prevent them from registering for summer courses.
  - With that information Elliot believes no further action is required related to this proposal.

### Unfinished Business

#### **New Micro-Credential Committee (MCC):** ([folder with documents](#))

1. Updated the [MCC Committee Policy- Draft.docx](#) based on last meeting (see meeting minutes 9-29-25)
  2. Gathered some information about other university Micro-credentials & Digital Badges
    - UC Boulder Information:  
<https://www.colorado.edu/registrar/faculty-staff/programs/micro-credentials>
    - Colorado State University Digital badges:  
<https://www.online.colostate.edu/badges/>
- \*\*See other resources about establishing university micro-credentials in the sub-folder ([Micro-credential Resources](#))

#### APC Committee:

- Please review [MCC Committee Policy- Draft.docx](#) and add any suggested composition changes based on discussion (e.g., membership and office of the registrar role).
- Leatherman noted that the committee appears to be moving forward with the recommendations made by the ad hoc committee and asked if this is the direction APC will want to take.
  - Newman shared that the Provost would give feedback when given the opportunity and suggest reaching out to them for feedback before finalizing anything.
- Etheridge-Woodson agreed that this work needs to be done and that a university-wide structure makes sense, though there may be workflow concerns.
- It was shared that there is no knowledge or information of creating new committees within the university.
  - Trask will search the archives for information on establishing committees.
- The MCC would mirror existing councils such as PEC and LAC, with voting and reporting rights as well.
- Leatherman asked if this would qualify as a standing committee, noting non-faculty members.
  - Newman mentioned that some badging may be non-academic in nature.
- Etheridge – Woodson clarified that this would not require a full Faculty Senate vote but rather a proposal to establish a representative body, which could later be formalized.
  - She suggested sending the proposal to Codification for recommendations
- It was clarified that since micro-credentials are institutional, involving both curricular and co-curricular components, presidential approval would be necessary.
- It was noted that the committee will need a faculty majority for compliance.

- Garrett shared that she has been paying other institutions for micro-credentials and suggested creating a procedure with oversight and representation, recommending the council be formed before policy development.
- Leatherman proposed consulting with the Provost or SEW for further discussion, as this may not fall strictly under a Faculty Council.
  - Newman suggested sending this to Codification first before reaching out to the provost.
  - Leatherman shared that more details need to be worked out, including appointments of non-faculty members.
- Paytoe Gabyee recommended looking at MSU's approach along with other institutions.
- Leatherman noted that if approached strictly as a faculty-led initiative, a lot of time may be spent on developing bylaws before substantive work on micro-credentials can begin.

### **S/U Grading Policy**

- a. S/U Grading Policy Suggested Addition (document linked [here](#)): *The S/U grading policy supersedes program level grade requirements where pre-requisites are above a letter grade of "C-".*)
- b. Note for Nursing: From Nursing: S/U grades may have an impact on eligibility for graduate school, or *professional school or licensure programs such as nursing.*

→ **This is already noted in the [S/U grading details](#):**

S/U grades may have an impact on eligibility for graduate school or professional school programs. Students should contact their college academic advisors, academic success coordinators, or faculty advisors for advice.

### **Continued Discussion:**

- S/U is in conflict with some departments policies.

Comments to the Good of the Order  
Adjournment 3:43pm

Tracy Gershwin  
 Chair