

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, October 27, 2025
2:30p.m. | Campus Commons 2300

Present: Chapin, Cieminski, Couch, Etheridge-Woodson, Garrett, Gershwin, Han, Karlin, Leatherman, Leonard, Mannello, Newman, Paytoe Gbayee

Zoom: Roberts

Absent:

Guest: Wesley

Call to Order 2:34pm

Approval of the Agenda approved without objection

Approval of the October 13, 2025, meeting minutes approved with clarification to the S/U policy discussion

Announcements/Chair's Report: No report

Reports from Councils

Graduate Council (Cieminski) – Grad Council discussed potential changes to support graduate student success, including increasing the credit limit for accelerated (4+1) programs. UNC currently allows 9 credits, while HLC guidance and other institutions allow up to 12, and faculty who oversee accelerated programs are supportive of increasing the limit. The council also reviewed doctoral credit requirements at UNC. Cieminski shared that the council members will take this information back to their units for feedback before bringing the item back to APC.

Liberal Arts Council (Muller) - The LACouncil met with Ted Cain from OIRE to talk though the LAC Indirect Assessment process piloted during summer 2025. We discussed question and response layout, response ordering, weighting of responses and reporting of the data including dashboarding. Ted will reorder the responses and is pursuing further information on possibilities for reporting. While hopefully a different approach will be taken in the future regarding data reporting, with the reordering, the student surveys will be distributed along with course evals this fall to all LAC courses. LAC IA data will be reported to faculty along with course review data. Notification to all units with courses in the LACurriculum about this process will be sent by mid-November.

The council approved two courses for inclusion in the LACurriculum beginning AY 26-27. One of these was a notification review of KIN 220 formerly SES 220 as part of the program name change. KIN 220 will remain in category SCI2/LAS1. The second was MAS 260. The HLH and IS/MS CCCs worked with MAS to rework this course for best fit, and it was approved for inclusion in AH2/LAA2 with an MS designation.

The council denied a student exception request for a transfer course equivalent to non-LAC SOC courses to receive MS credit. This would be a new precedent for student exceptions and the provided syllabi did not include enough evidence of multicultural content to warrant approval of the exception.

The council discussed registrar questions about the foundational skills award. Chair Muller will confer with VPES and DUS Etheridge-Woodson, and council will return to the topic on 11/4.

LAC inter and intranet pages have been built other than info on Foundational Skills Award and sample syllabi for LAA3, LAA4, and LAB2 categories. Missing data and trends as well as suggestions for next steps in ongoing assessment were discussed.

Wood, Bebee and Muller met with MCB as direct assessment follow-up for BA 250 as well as CO2-CO3 conversion for the course. The source of missing data was identified, trends and suggestions for ongoing direct assessment were discussed.

The Quality improvement project is open for AY 25-26 for all courses in categories Arts and Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences to work on building and aligning course embedded assessments for required gtP/LAC student learning outcomes. Announcement forthcoming. Contact director of assessment Bebee for more information.

Professional Education Council (Paytoe Gbayee) – PEC met last week. The council is continuing to work through their bylaws with the goal of bringing them to Codification soon and noted that there will also be related changes to the Board Policy Manual. PEC is reviewing the proposed syllabus structure for licensure programs and will be meeting with Jen Cherico. The council discussed their series of mandates when reviewing syllabi and noted that having the chair and vice chair carry most of that workload which was intended to speed up the workflow has created concerns and misunderstanding among some members regarding roles within the process. Additionally, the RA concern has resurfaced, and Jediah Cummings will attend the PEC meeting next month to address this.

Undergraduate Council (Karlin) – UGC met on October 14. Anna Green will attend the next meeting to discuss the Undergraduate commencement speaker process and timeline.

Student Government Association (Baxter) – No report

Special Reports

Special Order

New Business

1. Graduate School Policy Proposal:

Cindy Wesley, Associate Dean of Academics at the Graduate School, to 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 (see [Proposal to lower graduate credit threshold for FT enrollment\[58\].docx](#))*

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.

- Leatherman asked how this affects international graduate students.
 - Wesley noted that this change can benefit them, as many try to take 9 credits every and then run out of coursework before the dissertation stage.
 - The Office of Global Engagement ex-officio member has expressed that this would be beneficial to international students.
- Cieminski supported the proposal and noted this would not prevent programs from setting a higher credit expectation if needed for accreditation or program-specific reasons.
 - This also benefits both working professionals and international students.
- Han is in support of the proposal as well based on her own experiences with her graduate students, stating that this allows for more flexibility within the program.
- It was asked if the federal financial aid ever required or mandated a specific minimum credit load.
 - It was clarified that they did not.
- Cieminski clarified that practicum internships will remain unchanged.
- Gershwin is in favor of these changes as well based on her own experiences with her doctoral students.
- MOTION: Leatherman moves to approve the Graduate School Policy Proposal, seconded by Leonard.
- DISCUSSION:
 - Expected implementation of Fall 2026.
- VOTE: Motion approved unanimously

Unfinished Business

- Request: Revise Academic Standing Language from “*Academic Probation*” to “*Academic Standing Warning*”
 - 12/29/25 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](#)
- **New Micro-Credential Committee (MCC):** ([folder with documents](#))
**Resources about establishing university micro-credentials in the sub-folder ([Micro-credential Resources](#))
- **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 department policies and accreditation frames.
- Members questioned why the S/U policy would supersede unit policies; it would take away the power of the unit to decide what they require.
- The registrar listed programs that have program level requirements that are higher than this policy and requested clarification on how to operationalize certain situations.
- Cieminski asked about limits on S/U credits for undergraduates.
 - There are limits; 2 courses per semester, 15 credits total and is not a major issue currently.
- In the case a student changes their major to one that requires a higher minimum threshold, they would lose their ability to have an S/U grade.
 - Depending on the grade they receive they may have to retake the course to meet the requirement, which can be a burden on the unit and student.
- It was clarified that once a student selects the S/U option it cannot be changed.
- Two main issues were addressed:
 - A heavy burden is created on the registrar to know and maintain records.
 - S grades are not allowed in the major courses.
- It was suggested that a supplemental policy be written to address those issues.
- Students may enroll in courses they are not ready for, and repeating courses increases cost and workload.
 - Students should understand restrictions and consequences.
 - Advising should clearly inform students about financial implications.
- An appeals process was suggested to deal with situations that may come up.
- Applying a restriction to the policy, members hope that students will be more deliberate and intentional when deciding to take the S/U option.
- It was suggested to revise language to close loopholes in the current policy.
 - Gershwin will draft revised language for discussion at the next meeting.

New Business (On Hold)

1. **Medical school policies forthcoming**
2. **Academic Appeal Procedure Policy request forthcoming**

Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment 3:47pm

Tracy Gershwin
Chair