

## ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, September 29, 2025  
2:30p.m. | Campus Commons 2300

Present: Chapin, Etheridge – Woodson, Garrett, Gershwin, Han, Heiny, Karlin, Leatherman, Mannello, Paytoe Gbayee, Trask

Zoom: Couch

Absent: Newman

Guest: Mikay Elliot

Call to Order 2:31pm

Approval of the Agenda approved without objection

Approval of the September 15, 2025, meeting minutes approved without objection

Announcements/Chair's Report (Gershwin) – No report

### Reports from Councils

Graduate Council (Cieminski) - Graduate Council had its first meeting. We provided an overview of the council's duties and determined who is on the Standards and Awards committees. Items for discussion this year include updating processes and forms within the Graduate School, looking to reduce the minimum credits for doctoral degrees, especially for programs that require a master's degree, and continued exploration of guidelines for accelerated master's degree programs. The Grad Council is keeping abreast of developments from the AI Task Force and issues for international students.

Liberal Arts Council (Muller) - At LAC meeting on 9.16, the Council approved a proposal from the registrar, due to state gtP reporting requirements, around decoupling direct equivalences when a non gtP course transfers in as a UNC gtP/LAC course. This will have some impact on advising if transfer students declare majors that include that course. The registrar and the LACouncil are working to be in communication with the advisors across campus. CCC chairs provided some updated exemplar syllabi to refresh the LAC Course Approval webpage. Lee has updated the members (current as of now) and minutes (current though AY 24-25) LAC web pages. We also approved FND 250 back into the LACurriculum after receiving an updated syllabus that meets gtP/LAC requirements. The teaching syllabus we reviewed in spring 2025 did not meet requirements in the final ISR review. Muller met with AFS on their syllabi that did not meet requirements and a plan is in place. Muller also met with ASL around their ISR memo. We have discovered that the Council is not always getting the most relevant syllabi to review from the colleges. We are continuing to work on this reporting process. Muller is meeting weekly with Berniece Mitchell to get the LAC web page updated and ready for transfer to the new forward-facing internet and the UNC only facing intranet. Muller-Bebee-Wood-Etheridge-Woodson met with HSS Associate Dean Chris Marston to being conversation around career readiness and the UNC's general education

curriculum. Muller and Etheridge Woodson are meeting with the registrar on October 2nd to talk through some transfer issues/questions. Muller- Bebee-Wood, are in conversation around Direct Assessment Follow-Up Meetings with units who team courses in the writing category, inclusive of the required CO2/LAW2-CO3/LAW3 course changes. Council will be meeting on Tuesday October 7th where we will focus on discussions around filling out the Curriculum Category Committees, registrar-related issues, and ISR follow-up.

Professional Education Council (Paytoe Gbayee) – The first PEC meeting covered housekeeping items related to workflow, policy updates, and bylaws. The council is reviewing the bylaws before sending them to COD, developing syllabus guides for licensure classes, and collaborating with the DRC. Adjustments to the council’s composition are underway, including adding a secondary seat with a science focus. The group also clarified roles from the Dean’s Office and discussed seeking partnerships with K–12 schools.

Undergraduate Council (Karlin) – A list of potential undergraduate commencement speakers will be shared with council to finalize. The final list will be sent to Anna Green.

Student Government Association (Baxter) – No report

### Special Reports

Mikay Elliott, Academic and Advising Success Strategist and Academic Review Coordinator, Division of Student Academic Success

Stephanie Torrez, Assistant Vice President, Division of Student Academic Success

APC Submission Date: September 09, 2025

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

**Proposal Summary:** Advocating on behalf of the desire of students and the professional academic advisor network to meet the desire among the academic advising community to make an effort to rename “*Academic Probation*” to a more student-friendly and accessible program name. After research, professional development, open discussion, and solicited student feedback, we have landed on “**Academic Standing Warning**” as an alternative. This will also put the policy in harmony with the graduate catalog policy.

- Elliot proposes revisions to policies related to academic probation, following research and persistent patterns in student success.
  - Institutions including CSU, CU Boulder, and MSU have made this shift.
  - There have been connotations to the word “probation” and students find it confusing.
- Through informal surveys and opportunities to give feedback, majority of students do not like the term “probation.”

- She is proposing to revise the term “Academic Probation” to “Academic Standing Warning”
  - This change will match the descriptor of “academic standing”
- Elliot and her team did consider “academic notice” but did not think it would catch the students attention.
- Leatherman agreed with the connotation of the term “probation” and asked if there is a standard term used among institutions.
  - Elliot shared that MSU uses “academic notice”, while others still use “academic probation.” She has also seen other institutions shift to “academic warning”
- Couch asked the reason behind the use of “standing”? And if the coding and description methodologies will need to be changed?
  - Elliot does anticipate the coding to change and shared the current academic standing codes,
    - When the student cumulative GPA is below 2.0, they will be considered P1 or Academic Probation Semester 1
    - If they have not raised their GPA the following year or so, they will be considered as PC or Academic Probation Continued
  - The process will not change, only the name. She is open to any other suggestions. She also explained that the use of “standing” was for descriptive reasonings.
- Heiny stated that the graduate school uses “academic warning” and suggested using similar language to stay consistent.
  - The coding language will have to change with some carryover.
- Gershwin suggested that they give a brief explanation on the language of their status.
- The students are highly encouraged to complete the required canvas shell before their meeting with their advisors.
- Couch followed up with the fact the several students are not attending their advising meetings and asked for more clarity on why they are not attending those meetings.
  - Elliot shared that since they started their process, they have seen the number of students completing their academic probation program increase.
  - She thinks this revision will align with the “student first” approach of making the program more student friendly and accessible.
- She stated that they will continue to assess the program to see if there are other factors they will need to consider.
- Couch addressed the utilization of pins for summer term that was mentioned at the last meeting.
  - Elliot shared that that proposal got approved at the undergraduate council
  - Couch shared the timing and operational elements will need to be discussed further given the current process and changes occurring in the registrar’s office.
    - Elliot stated that she is amendable to a hold instead of a pin.

- Elliot has seen historically students that take summer courses that are under academic probation are usually not well equipped and not used to the condensed nature.
  - They see students get academically suspended due to summer courses.
- She shared that they do not want prevent students from taking summer courses, they would students to have an addition check-in step that they are required to have with advisors.
  - There is no hold that prevents students from registering for summer courses while on academic probation.
- Elliot will share that proposal and attend a future meeting for discussion.
- Etheridge-Woodson asked if students see the coding description.
  - Couch shared that they would see it and is still trying to understand her proposal. A new coding structure will need to be developed if adopted.
  - Etheridge-Woodson clarified that her approach is framing towards being student focused and making language less punitive while informing students of the process.
- Gershwin saw how the proposal resonates more with the student first approach.
- Couch stated that students can go from a warning to a suspension, which seems like a big leap.
- Etheridge-Woodson sees the logic in this but thinks the general catalog language could be changed while internal language remains the same.
- Couch asked about the transition of current students under current catalog language and how that would work.
  - His team will need some guidance from either APC or Senate.
- Cieminski asked if there is some wisdom from other institutions that have made this change.
  - Couch would have to reach out to his colleagues.
- Chapin wondered if there is an upside to blocking the language change and their work.
- MOTION: Chapin moves to approve the language change from “academic probation” to “academic warning” provided that they give an explanation of the transition process, Leatherman seconded.
- DISCUSSION:
  - Karlin amended the motion to remove any contingencies on the proposal and recommended having a discussion with the Registrar regarding transitions and coding methods.
  - Leatherman shared that the way it is stated needs to be change because there will be faculty members that will continue to say, “academic probation.”
    - Gershwin agrees.
  - This will be implemented in Fall 2026
- VOTE: Motion approved unanimously

## Special Order

### Unfinished Business

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

1. Review and Discuss the [Draft Micro-Credential Proposed Policy](#)
2. Unanswered Questions per [MRC Addendum document](#):
  - It was suggested that the infrastructure committee support be similar to that of the HSI steering committee in the provost's office.
  - Ad-Hoc Micro-credential unanswered questions:
    1. Will this committee have administrative support, such as the Faculty Senate Committees do with Lee Amor?
    2. Who will be in charge of/make updates to the website?
    3. Which platform will we use?
    4. How do we pay for the platform and other possible costs?
3. Next steps: Submit to Faculty senate à All faculty meeting vote for micro-credential committee (Qualtrics through All faculty)
  - Questions were raised about who the committee will report to and who the chair will be.
    - It was suggested that they report to the provost's office
    - Muller stated that the chair should not be the registrar.
  - This committee should be a university-wide committee, similar to the HSI steering committee.
  - with the suggestion that it be housed under the Provost's Office and established as a university-wide committee.
  - Etheridge-Woodson stated that the credentials would have to be sunset or reapproved.
    - The sunseting was not suggested by the ad hoc committee.
  - It is important that the process be well thought out.
  - Paytoe Gbayee shared that this will need to be a standing committee as long as micro-credentials exist
    - It may fall under a curriculum process and go through the established curriculum workflow
  - It is important to remember that the micro-credentials can be both academic and non-academic.
  - Gershwin would like to look into what other institutions are doing.
  - APC is considered to be the reporting body, similar to LAC, UGC, and PEC
  - Etheridge-Woodson emphasized the importance of making the structure inclusive and welcoming to all constituencies.
4. **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*.

à **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 in conflict with some departments
- 5. Academic Appeals Board:** Policy requires revisions.
- No response from board chair.

Business (On Hold)

1. **New medical school policies forthcoming**
2. **Amorous Relations Policy** ([folder with documents](#))
  - a. [Amorous Policy](#)
  - b. Next Steps à Approved by Cabinet, Submitted to Faculty Welfare.
3. Graduate Student Full-time vs. Part-time Status

Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment 3:51pm

Tracy Gershwin  
Chair