Attendance Policy
A concern has been raised about some professors’ unwillingness to accept any excused absences, invoking a “death penalty” for students who miss a pre-determined number of classes regardless of circumstances. Though students can file a grievance, this is done after the conclusion of the course. Furthermore, some students may be disinclined to file a grievance for fear of retribution.

This is an issue we will continue to discuss. At this point we do not see a change in policy forthcoming. However, we would encourage some type of communication asking faculty to follow Clemson policy and to be reasonable about making decisions that can have such a profound impact upon students. We also recommend investigating the creation of a process that students might follow when they believe they are being treated unfairly and in opposition to university policy.

A major related concern is having students attend class for fear of grade repercussions when they have a contagious disease. We hope that Redfern could assist in this matter by certifying that, when appropriate, a student should not attend class to protect both her or his own health and the health of others in the classroom. Ben Boone is meeting with George Clay to discuss this.

Academic Integrity: Lead Kelly Smith
The issue concerns, at least in large part, how to deal with dishonesty that is not tied directly to a course (e.g. plagiarism on an essay competition). Though we will continue to look at this issue, at this point we believe that dishonesty that is not tied directly to a course should be dealt with via the Student Code of Conduct and the Office of Community and Ethical Standards, not as a breach of Academic Integrity policy.

We have also been asked to provide guidance as to whether planning to cheat is a violation of Academic Integrity. The Student Senate has passed a resolution arguing against this. We believe this too should continue to be dealt with via the Student Code of Conduct and the Office of Community and Ethical Standards. Nevertheless, it’s an issue we want to continue to discuss.

Undergraduate Senate’s Academic Affairs Committee
• Ben Boone mentioned that they are still waiting for the okay to send the survey concerning online courses. It should go sometime in early March.
• An ad hoc group is still discussing General Education through brainstorming sessions.
• They are meeting with George Clay in an effort to have Redfern issue excused absences.
• They are looking at the framework for Academic Integrity in the hopes of helping to restructure Grievance. One aspect that would help is having a steady pool of counselors.
• The survey on BlackBoard showed that students are not overly dissatisfied with faculty ability to use BlackBoard but would like to see improvement in use of 1) Gradebook, 2) Calendar, 3) Uploaded documents, and 4) Announcements.
• Their big project is trying to establish Advisory Boards for each college, much as BBS has done. Though this will not be finished this spring, they hope the groundwork will have been laid to complete this next year.  absences.

Graduate Advisory Committee
In August 2010, SP voiced unanimous support for the proposed change to the Graduate Advisory Committee. This was passed back to Policy and presented and passed at the EAC meeting.

Summer Schedule
This is in place for summer 2011. Another committee continues to look at details of implementation and attracting more students to attend Clemson during the summer.

Definition of Credit Hour
Scholastic Policies believes this is an important issue that needs to be addressed. A committee, led by Dale Layfield, has been established to evaluate distance education. At some later date, we may revisit this, using the information this committee gathers, to help establish some type of policy.

Graduate Committees
We have collected data on how various departments are using Form 3 and FAS to identify which faculty members may serve on students’ graduate committees. We have found that that this policy is not being uniformly enforced and that there is great variation in how this determination is made.

We have recommended that each department develop a policy for making this determination and include it in their bylaws. This should reduce the potential for problems and give faculty members a means of recourse when they are unhappy with a decision that they believe was not made correctly. This was agreed to by the Executive Advisory Committee and a letter has been sent by Bill Surver to the Provost.

Graduate Credit Applied to Undergraduate Degree
We have approved the following statement. EAC and the Faculty Senate have also endorsed it.

Degree-seeking undergraduate students may apply graduate level coursework toward their undergraduate degree at the discretion of the degree-granting program. Ordinarily, graduate credits taken at institutions other than Clemson University will be awarded only if those institutions are in good standing with regional accrediting organizations. The Graduate Council approved this, but limited it to 12 hours.

Academic Integrity and Academic Redemption
These policies were somewhat at odds with each other. SP was asked to make a recommendation on a proposal. Academic Integrity stated, “If a student is found in violation of the academic integrity policy and receives a redeemable grade as the penalty, he/she will not be allowed to redeem that grade under the Academic Redemption Policy” (p. 30 2010-2011 Undergraduate Announcements). The current Academic Redemption Policy states, “The ARP may not be applied to…any course in which the student was previously found in violation of the academic integrity policy” (p. 26, 2010-2011 Undergraduate Announcements).
The proposed wording for the Academic Redemption Policy is as follows: “The ARP may not be applied to…any course in which the student was previously found in violation of the academic integrity policy and received a redeemable grade as the penalty.” We did not support this proposed change to the Academic Redemption Policy. While we agreed that the two policies need to match, we believed the Academic Integrity Policy should be modified to match the Academic Redemption Policy. We were unanimous in our opposition to this proposed change. Our recommendation was to leave the current Academic Redemption Policy alone. This recommendation was made to the Undergraduate Council and was supported by the Undergraduate Senate’s Academic Affairs. The Undergraduate Academic Council accepted our suggestion and approved the change as we have recommended. Students who have been found in violation cannot redeem the course.

Method of Delivery
A concern had been brought to our attention as to whether or not a faculty member should have some say in the method of delivery for a course. A department’s curriculum committee had decided that no courses would be offered online in fall and spring semesters, even for courses that were offered online in summer. If this is because online courses are deemed to be inferior, then the implication is that we do not care as much about the quality of courses in the summer as we do in fall and spring, something we find problematic.

Though we believe the decision on delivery should be made as locally as possible, we also believe that the faculty member should have input on the decision and blanket policies on the delivery method are not advisable. We also note that Clemson is required to track and report the usage of online courses.

Enforcement of Prerequisites
Exceptions have been made for students to enroll in classes for which they do not have the proper prerequisites. In one reported case, the exception was granted by the intervention of a Senator. Others have reported cases of upper administrators allowing enrollment. Faculty members do have the right to enforce stated prerequisites. In fact, Mr. Smith discussed and showed us a means for faculty to check whether or not students have the proper prerequisites. This is available via the Registrar’s homepage. Faculty can work with Kelly McDavid in the Registrar’s Office if they desire.

Faculty-Authored Textbooks and Course Materials
A form currently exists that was created a few years back and vetted through the legal offices to ensure it was in compliance with South Carolina law. After considerable discussion, we have determined that the current form is satisfactory, and we request that all college offices be reminded of the form’s existence and make the form readily available, and that faculty be reminded periodically of their legal requirement to complete the form when they assign texts or course materials for which they have a potential financial gain. In a survey earlier this year triggered by an audit, we found that, as a whole, we as a university were not in compliance.

We had also been asked to explore whether faculty should file a form to disclose when they are working on a text or other course materials for which they may have future financial gain. We determined that this was not needed or desirable. We discussed that in some cases, authoring a text or course materials could be a form of scholarship that should be rewarded and count toward the faculty member’s evaluation, while in other cases, it may not be deemed worthwhile scholarship activity. However, that is not a decision for Scholastics Policy, but for the faculty member and her/his supervisor.

Gen Ed
There has been talk about eliminating the distinction between literature and non-literature for the Arts & Humanities General Education requirement. Though our discussions suggested we do not favor eliminating the distinction, at this point we believe that this should be left in the hands of the Curriculum Committee, which is, of course, composed of faculty members who represent their departments and colleges. Consequently, we urge faculty members to voice their concerns to their Curriculum Committee representatives.
Academic Eligibility Policy Committee: Lead David Tonkyn
David was SP’s representative on this committee. The policy has been rewritten and is pending final approval. The major change is students new to Clemson will have three semesters instead of two to complete before they may be suspended.

Acceptance into Major and Graduation
We were asked to consider the statement on page 28 of the Undergraduate Announcements, under the section entitled “Special Requirements,” which states: “Candidates for graduation must be officially accepted in the major in which they are applying for a degree no later than the term prior to submitting the application.” Apparently there have been times when this policy has not been followed, though Mr. Smith indicated that this is not a common occurrence.

Our recommendation was to leave the policy in place but modify it to state: “Candidates for graduation must be officially accepted in the major in which they are applying for a degree no later than the date applications for diplomas are due.” The Executive/Advisory Committee raised no objections to this.