End of Year Report

SCHOLASTIC POLICIES COMMITTEE – Vic Shelburne, Chair – (AFLS)
Sean Brittain (E&S)
Wayne Goddard (E&S)
Bob Horton (HEHD)
Haibo Lu (AFLS)
Daniel Smith (AAH)

Topic 1-Grade Inflation

The Scholastic Policies Committee/Faculty Senate made a recommendation two years ago that a new study of grade inflation be done (a Grade Inflation Study should be funded and done). Since this has not been done AND the current budget situation would certainly prohibit the funding, we decided to drop this issue for now.

Topic 2-Winter Semester

No recommendation for Winter Semester ever came to the Scholastic Policies committee for consideration.

Topic 3-International Transfer Credits

The committee approved the new Study Abroad Form for International Transfer Credits.

Topic 4-Course drop/withdrawal date (2nd date) time change to later date

Shelburne sat on the sub-committee to make a recommendation for this issue and that committee recommended moving the withdrawal date back by two weeks. This committee also recommended that mid-semester grades be moved back a week. Both of these recommendations were passed unanimously by the Council of Undergraduate Studies at its November 13th meeting. It also passed the Graduate Council.

Topic 5-Make Fall Break a permanent date in October—not a November date in election years

The University Calendar Committee made a recommendation that a permanent change to mid-October be made. The Scholastic Policies Committee concurred with that decision and realized that it may cause schedule issues for fall 2010 if implemented immediately. Therefore, the committee went on record as supporting implementation beginning in fall 2012 (fall 2011 already has a mid-October Fall Break).

Topic 6 - Lab Fees
After receiving feedback from all the College Deans on procedures, this committee handed this issue off to the Faculty Senate Finance Committee for its review.

**Topic 8 – Course Redemption Policy**

We reviewed the existing Course Redemption policy and made a recommendation to allow C grade redemption (D and F only in present policy). The recommendation of the Scholastic Policies committee was not approved by the Faculty Senate Exec/Advisory Committee at its meeting in December. The Scholastic Policies committee decided not to continue to pursue this.

**Topic 9 – Availability of Comments on Student Evaluation of Instructors for Chairs**

The revised language of Section IX-6 2009 Faculty Manual was sent to the Policy Committee and revised again. However, it was tabled to no later than April at the January Faculty Senate meeting due to concerns of the Provost. Apparently, a joint committee of faculty (Scholastic Policies members?) and administrators will be appointed to address these concerns and make recommendations so to finalize the wording which will more specifically outline ways which faculty can demonstrate teaching effectiveness. However, we have not been informed of any committee so we assume that the revisions proposed by the Policy Committee will come to the Senate floor at the April meeting.

**Topic 10 – Academic Integrity Policy Revision**

The Council of Undergraduate Studies voted unanimously on November 13th to NOT define Academic dishonesty in the Undergraduate catalogue as the following: “submitting work that has been turned in for credit for a previous or concurrent course without the consent of the instructor.” The Scholastic Policies Committee recommended that this issue should be addressed at the level of the syllabus.

**Topic 11 – Request from Student Affairs (from Gail DiSabatino to Jan Murdock and Bill Bowerman) to have a representative (from Student Affairs) on the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the Academic Integrity Committee, Calhoun Honors Committee and the Academic Eligibility Committee.**

The committee recommendation was not to add members from Student Affairs to these committees but perhaps allow them as non-voting members at the discretion of each committee.

**Topic 12 – Recommendation for faculty speaker at 2010 (and beyond) New Student Convocation.**

The committee recommended that the most recent recipient of the Class of 1939 award be asked to speak (as a standard practice) and in the event that he/she cannot perform this function, that
previous winners be asked (in any order). Failing that, nominations could come from the Senate. The motion passed.

**Topic 13 – Recommendation concerning reduced credit load for students with disabilities**

We endorsed the proposed policy from Student Disability Services with the recommendation that BOTH the advisor and the Chair have a signature block on the form. It was also suggested that if international students apply for this waiver, the Office of International Programs should have a signature block.

**Topic 14 – Recommendation to grant up to 12 hours of undergraduate credit to for GRDUATE credit taken elsewhere.**

The committee supports the idea of credit up to twelve hours if and only if, the departments approves the credits but suggests that the policy concerning graduate course credit for use at the undergrad level be re-examined by perhaps an ad-hoc committee of both the Graduate and Undergraduate councils.

**Topic 15 – Thoughts on the Graduate Academic Integrity Policy and phrasing on the transcript for level 3 or 4 violations**

The language in the Graduate Academic Integrity Policy may allow the phrase “dismissed for violation of academic integrity at level 3 (or 4)” to be written on the transcript in the case of a level 3 or 4 violation. This wording however has not been used but an actual level 4 violation recently occurred and the Graduate Academic Integrity Committee has voted to use this language on the student’s transcript. The Scholastic Policies committee suggests that the Graduate Academic Integrity committee might review the language for level 3 or 4 violations.