

## **Registration, Records and Calendar Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: Friday, January 24, 2020

Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Location: Poe Hall room 320

Members Present: Chair Cynthia Zuckerman Hyman, Laura Sremaniak, Kerry Havner, Barbara Kirby, Lian Lynch, Mollie LoJacono, Wes Parker, Than Austin, Carrie Doyle, Ted Shear, Temple Walkowiak, Jason DeRousie, Carrie McLean, Kristin Thoney-Barletta, Coleman Simpson, Tanay Agrawal, Ragen Willaford-Menefee, Manasa Maddila

Members Absent: Tameka Whitaker, Bret Smith, Neal Parker, Katie Graham, Heather Lysterly, Barry Olson, Marie Williams, Curtis Rice

Ex-Officio Members Present: Louis Hunt, Kyle Pysher, Lindsey Mihalov

### **Welcome**

- Meeting called to order at 10:08am by Chair Cynthia Zuckerman Hyman

### **Unfinished Business**

#### Perpetual Calendar Discussion

- First topic of business is the perpetual calendar. Kyle Pysher provided a brief update on the perpetual calendar being proposed. The Office of Registration & Records is still waiting to hear from Human Resources and Faculty Affairs. R&R will be meeting with them in February.
- Cynthia Zuckerman Hyman's concern is for folks working on Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) appeals. This past Fall 2019 grades were due at 12pm on a Friday and the University closed the following Monday for Winter Break.

### **New Business**

#### Spring Holiday Removal Review

- Cynthia Zuckerman Hyman turned the topic of discussion to removal of Spring Holiday, which is not a University holiday only a student break, from the academic calendar. A past calendar committee voted to remove Spring Holiday starting Spring 2020. This committee does not create policy but provides suggestions to the provost. Through 2022 Spring Holiday is removed from the calendar.

- Kyle Pysher explained justification given for removing Spring Holiday includes keeping the number of student break days equal between the Fall and Spring terms. Past discussion revolved around: is Spring Holiday/Good Friday representative of all students?
- There is a regulation already in place to allow students 2 excused absences a year for religious observance.
- Laura Sremaniak stated that many at the University were not aware of the Spring Holiday break being removed and she has received much feedback from their faculty with concerns. It is an important time for families getting together, still a holiday observed by public schools and recognized by the state of NC. Concerns for families with children needing to make arrangements for their children while they work (i.e. daycare). Please put back on the agenda for discussion.
- Kerry Havner shared that he has spoken with concerned others and read a portion of an email received. As part of the US and state of NC the University should call the day 'Good Friday'.
- Student Coleman Simpson said Easter is very important for his family and so the break on Friday should be included for logistical reasons to allow students and staff to travel. However, not in support of renaming as Good Friday. Should be a separate discussion. Keep the separation with religion. Wes Parker agreed and says that calling it Good Friday wasn't an issue until now that people have noticed the student break has been removed from the academic calendar.
- Ted Shear stated in 17 years we've had spring holiday. Kerry's referenced survey is not anecdotal, an expression of good intent only, because it is not representative of the full university population. We've heard no negative affect until now. No professors in his college have given a student a difficult time for wanting to use their 2 allowed religious days off.
- Louis Hunt reminded the committee that students had classes off on the break, but employees do not. The university is not closed and most businesses are not closed. Concerning travel, approximately 58% students have classes on Friday and the majority are done before noon. The Christian holiday of Easter is not until Sunday.
- Louis Hunt mentioned looking at UNC-CH's schedule and they still have the Spring Holiday. Their Spring semester starts two days later and have graduation one day later than NC State. Kyle Pysher briefly explained UNC-CH has different class meeting patterns and their contact hours add up differently.
- Laura Sremaniak asked if there is a constraint she's not aware of. Kyle Pysher responded there should be 72 days each semester, but Spring had more. Louis Hunt said our overall calendar is very long and problematic. Constraints might be worthy of a broader discussion about number of exam days, class patterns, etc.
- Cynthia Zuckerman Hyman brought up needing further discussion about Fall semester concerns as well - mental health issues and VISA concerns. The term ended on Dec 19 and faculty/staff had to come back on the 30th to prepare so that wasn't much of a break. Students need more recovery time which is affecting ALL students and the learning environment.

- Wes Parker said most students are probably not aware of the policy allowing them the 2 religious days a year. Carrie McLean stated DASA doesn't make the decision, only manages the process and makes sure students ask in advance. Some students have a phobia of communicating with faculty. DASA assists with making sure the professor understands the situation and approves the student's absence. Student Coleman Simpson responded that the University needs to better educate the students so they know they can ask for these things.
- Cynthia Zuckerman Hyman wanted inclusion of future conversation with the perpetual calendar discussion. Need to understand what the implications are.

#### Enrollment Calendar Discussion

- Cynthia Zuckerman Hyman brought up the enrollment calendar is very compressed in the Fall for those who advise. Heard from advisors on campus that there are concerns. Only 3 days of students being here between release/publication of the schedule and when the first students begin registering. Some departments manage large numbers. Carrie McLean agreed and shared that one advisor can have as many as 1,000 students.
- Kyle Pysher responded that R&R has come up with some ideas that may help such as fewer days of actual enrollment, making sure to consider fall break and spring break. If we allow a full week between publication and when registration begins is this a realistic number of days?
- Kerry Havner asked for clarification because he thought there were already 5 business days before registration.
- Cynthia Zuckerman Hyman said she had 80 appointments in 3 days and that's only a fraction of the students she advises. CHASS has a very high advising load, so having at least 5 days would help them. Grad students only had 2 days. Her proposal is 5 days.
- Carrie McLean said it depends on the type of students you're advising. Students in transition between programs need more assistance. Also, it's not only about advising appointments. Some students may need additional time to research and think about conflicts. Students have shared they want extra time.
- Lian Lynch stated that she doesn't see this making a difference. From where she sits Graduate students don't care since they still have plenty of time to register.
- Jason DeRousie suggested that releasing the students' enrollment dates earlier before publication may spark students to think about making appointments with their advisors.
- Grad students in attendance shared concerns about having enough time to make proper decisions. Student Coleman Simpson said from a student perspective having some extra time to prepare and make an appointment with their advisor would greatly reduce stress.
- Cynthia Zuckerman Hyman motioned and Coleman seconded. Committee voted yes.

#### Non-Standard Class Meeting Times/Patterns

- Committee went through the non-standard time requests for Fall 2020 and voted all together.

#### New Chair of the Calendar Committee

- As the last piece of business Cynthia Zuckerman Hyman asked members for nominations for a new Committee Chair. Temple Walkowiak offered herself to be the chair. Passed unanimously.
- Temple Walkowiak will be the Committee Chair for the 2020-2021 academic year.

#### **Closing**

- Meeting adjourned at 11:26am by Chair Cynthia Zuckerman Hyman

Minutes recorded by Lindsey Mihalov Watts.