

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

University Standing Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Registration, Records, and Calendar

Academic Year Covered by Report 2021-2022

Date Report Submitted 6/29/2022

Report Submitted by Cynthia Zuckerman Hyman

Number of times committee met 4 meetings: 8/27/21; 9/10/21; 1/28/22; 2/25/22

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Continued discussion with campus partners regarding the creation of a non-binary gender option. Currently, the binary male/female does not match the passport non-binary option available to international students. As such, the binary option creates a situation where there are students who are automatically excluded from applying to NC State.
- Continue discussion with campus partners regarding voting days (primary/general election) as calendar days or explicitly included in the excused absence policy so students who may have to travel to vote do not have the days counted against their attendance.

## **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE**

- Fall meetings (8/27 and 9/10):
  - **Key Item**—Perpetual calendar: During the 8/27 meeting, extensive discussion centered around the perpetual calendar, specifically the shift in fall break, the hanging Monday after Thanksgiving break, and the time between grades being due and the University closing for winter break. A sample calendar that took into account these various concerns was presented to the committee, and the vote on the perpetual calendar was on 9/10. The perpetual calendar was unanimously approved during the 9/10 meeting.
  - Diploma names: Update provided that students now have the option beginning in Fall 2021 of having their diploma name match their preferred name.
  - Third gender option: From the diploma name discussion, it came to the attention of the committee of the importance of a third gender option beyond male and female. Not offering at a minimum a third non-binary option has the potential to prevent students from applying to NC State.
  - Voting on non-standard times: Non-standard times unanimously approved
- Spring meetings (1/28 and 2/25):

- Key Item—1/28 presentation by Student Government regarding a proposal to increase voting engagement by college students. Kayla Bertling, Director of Government Affairs for Student Government, gave a presentation proposing additions to university policy that would allow for no classes on election days so that students could focus on voting. The biggest issue on election days is competing times. Polling location hours are typically 6:30am to 7:30pm. Standard class times cause conflicts for students and faculty going to the polls on election day mainly due to the requirement that voters cast their ballots at their specific precinct, causing extended travel times. Even in the scenario of a polling location on campus the time between classes does not offer enough time. Kayla presented several options to increase voting opportunities. The committee tabled a vote on the proposal for a second meeting to allow for further information on questions to be answered. The 2/25 meeting was additional discussion of the proposal, with information regarding the effects on the calendar start and end dates. During the 2/25 meeting, the effects on the calendar for all proposed days off created untenable outcomes for faculty contract start dates, reading days, period between grades being due and the University closing in December, and other factors. The overall recommendation from the committee was to codify voting as an excused absence in the existing University absence policy.
- Voting on non-standard times: majority approved, others sent back to departments for more information.
- Election of Tameka Whitaker as the chair for the 2022-23 academic year.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR REVISION OF CHARGE AND/OR MEMBERSHIP CONFIGURATION (if applicable)**