

Carola:

Please consider this email a report of the Academic Policy & Requirement Committee's follow-up regarding the COE's proposed undergraduate admission policy.

The Senate tabled the proposal pending replies to the following questions. Mehdi Shadaram, Associate Dean of COE for Undergraduate Programs, provided the responses.

Question 1: What are the current admissions procedures, and what are the driving reasons for the proposed policy?

(See current COE Admissions Policy attached.) Just as other colleges and departments have found that a “one size fits all” admissions orientation is inadequate for their needs, COE also has admissions requirements specific to its mission. These include ABET accreditation and factors such as learning assessment needs, retention and graduation rates, academic preparation of entering students. Unlike most colleges, engineering programs are heavily applied mathematics oriented; meaning new and transferring students must have initial math preparation and competency peculiar to engineering disciplines.

Question 2: The last paragraph of the proposed policy refers to “the Three Calculation Grade Average” for pre-engineering majors. What is this, and how and when is it used?

This is in the current policy and is used to evaluate the admission of pre-engineering students to a COE major. As described later in the current UG catalog: “The three grade point average calculations employ only the grades received in courses that are applicable to the engineering degree being sought. The grade point averages used in the three-calculation grade point average

(GPA) are (1) overall grade point average of all courses (Overall GPA), (2) grade point average of all mathematics, science, and engineering courses, and (3) grade point average of all courses taken in the discipline of the major subject (Major GPA).

Question 3: Was there an examination of how the proposed COE admission policy would affect the diversity (racial, ethnic, gender, etc) of students admitted to the College?

Yes, the COE has a comprehensive program for monitoring and maintaining diversity within its student population, and COE anticipates that the proposed policy will maintain, even enhance, its program. This diversity manifests itself both within pre-engineering students and within each of the engineering disciplines. In terms of race/ethnicity, COE freshmen students are 41% Hispanic, 36% white, 8% Black/African American, 6% Asian, and 7% international.

Attached is the proposed COE admission policy as originally presented to the Faculty Senate at its last meeting, except that it has been amended to reflect changes in Provost policy and to reflect clarification (see highlighted items in the attachment).

The Provost recently stated that, regarding college/departmental policies of minimum course grades, the requirement that such grades will default to the “minus” grade will be implemented without waiver upon implementation of the plus/minus grading system Fall 2011. (The Provost will review this policy after a two-year moratorium on waiver considerations.) Accordingly, the proposed minimum ‘C’ grades in the COE admission proposal have been amended to read ‘C-’.

The parenthetical phrase (see below) has been added to refer readers to the current UG catalog explanation of the “Three Calculation Grade Average” for pre-engineering majors.

The Academic Policies & Requirements Committee moves for approval of the amended proposed COE UG admissions policy.

Respectfully submitted.

/signed/

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Chairman, Academic Policies & Requirements Committee