Faculty Senate (Revised) Resolution SR 00-08

New Admissions Standards for Transfer Students

Whereas, Louisiana State University (LSU) wishes to attract the very best students at every level and also desires to maximize their success at LSU, and

Whereas, present transfer policies are unfair to poorly prepared students in that they often do not succeed at LSU, and

Whereas, we have been increasing admission standards for new students entering at the freshman level,

Therefore be it resolved that beginning in the fall of 2001, transfer students must satisfy the following admission standards:

Students with previous college or university work from regionally accredited institutions may be considered for admission if they have an overall 2.5 grade-point average or better on all college-level work attempted (this work must be beyond remedial courses and include a mathematics and an English course).

Transfer students who have earned fewer than 30 semester hours of college-level (above remedial) work must also meet the current requirements for freshman admission.

Applicants who have earned more than 60 semester hours of college-level (above remedial) work must also be accepted by their intended senior college.

Justification: With these new standards, the transfer students admitted will be similar to students who are admitted under current freshman standards. Under the new rules, we would expect their first semester grade point average (GPA) to be above 2.00 and for most students over 2.2, and second semester GPA even better. While first year persistence is currently not very different for transfer students than for our normally admitted students, we expect second year persistence will be dramatically improved to over 65%. Six year graduation rates should increase to close to 60% compared with graduation rates in the mid-thirties which currently is the case for students admitted with a transfer GPA under 2.5.

Numbers of students involved: Including all data from 1993-98, we have had 5,087 transfer students (1001 in fall 98). For those five years the number who would not be admitted under the new rules is 37.1% of which 1598 students had a GPA under 2.5 and an extra 290 had under 30 hours in transfer credit. In 1998, 29% or 290 transfer students had GPA under 2.5 plus a few additional students who had less than 30 hours and would not be admitted under the new rules. However, the two year drop out rates for these lower GPA students is about 55% (for native LSU students those numbers are closer to 20%). In fact using last three-year data, only 40.4% of these lower GPA students succeed at LSU. Therefore, to see the effects on enrollment, if we admit 37% fewer students (or 630 versus 1000 total), most of those 370 would not be around after one year so the real loss is at most 370*.4 = 148 students. With the number and quality of the transfer students increasing, very likely the loss would be made up within a year (even before the new standards take effect).
justification (for example, teaching evenings or weekends) and the individual's chair approves the request. If, during the established work week, a faculty member does not perform his/her usual duties, and if sick leave is applicable, then sick leave must be taken. For example, if a faculty member had a medical appointment during the hours of his/her work week, then he/she must take sick leave for the appointment, regardless of whether the faculty member missed class, office hours, meetings, and so forth. A certification form has been designed to facilitate this reporting requirement. The form contains a statement (I certify that I have reported all absences required by the University regulations governing sick leave to be so reported) that faculty members would sign each month.

In response to questions and comments, Benedict agreed that the process does not lend itself to the reality of faculty work schedules, and that it is like fitting square pegs into round holes. He reiterated that we must comply with a law that is currently on the books. He said that no one has suggested any mechanism for verifying sick leave using medical records or insurance claims, and that the University would strongly resist any such mechanism. He also indicated that there will be no procedure which involves monitoring of faculty sick leave by chairs or deans. Finally, he clarified that unused sick leave becomes creditable service in the Teacher's Retirement System only, not the Optional Retirement Plans.

Committee Reports. SR 00-08, New Admissions Standards for Transfer Students (second reading, complete text attached). Presented by Neil Kestner, Chair of the Faculty Senate Admissions, Scholarship and Honors (ASH) Committee. Senator Kestner explained that many transfer students admitted under current standards have not had a successful experience at LSU. Under the proposed standards, the transfer students admitted will be similar to students who are admitted under current freshman standards, which should improve performance. Two amendments to the resolution were moved and passed. The resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business. None.

New Business. Ron Snider (President, LSU Chapter of the American Association for University Professors) presented a statement urging the Faculty Senate to recommend the immediate revocation of PM-35 (an LSU System permanent memorandum regulating post-tenure review, which went into effect January 1, 2000). There were no questions or comments. President Cherry did announce that she will be meeting with the interim Vice-President of the LSU System, Dr. Marilyn Zinman, on February 16 to discuss ongoing academic review. She requested that senators forward to her specific questions and/or concerns they would like to have raised at that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Barry, Secretary

Faculty Senate Meeting minutes and transcripts are available at: http://www.lsu.edu/guests/senate/public_html/index.htm