Academic Standards Committee Meeting,
February 24, 2010 4pm, Ullsvik 2007

Agenda:

1. Approve minute of previous two meetings
2. Data access update (Dalecki)
3. Data regarding ACT scores of entering freshmen (2008 and 2009 data update)
4. Proposed recommended change to repeat policy (See below—wordsmithed by Krugler and Dalecki)
5. Additional discussion regarding admissions, grade inflation, repeats.
6. Adjourn

The Faculty Senate charged the Academic Standards Committee to evaluate and make recommendations regarding so-called "grade inflation." That analysis is ongoing; further recommendations may be forthcoming.

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We have determined that grade inflation results in part from the following policies or practices: excessive retakes, which supplant *earned* low or failing grades; course "shopping;" and loopholes that allow students to conceal or to avoid failing grades due to academic misconduct.

Recommendations:

1. Each course a student retakes will be subject to a $30/credit retake fee, plus a $10 administrative fee.

2. Once a student has completed 2 semesters of full-time enrollment (defined as 12 credits or more attempted at the start of the semester), all grades earned will count toward the grade point average. Thus, in a student's second and subsequent academic years, any "F" and "D" grades will be permanently included in the grade point average, even if a later retake replaces the "F" or "D" with a higher grade.

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A separate proposal regarding the consequences of academic misconduct.

Currently, students who fail a course due to misconduct reasons have no real penalty other than having to retake the course at a later date, which erases the "F" from the grade point average; further, no indication as to the cause of the "F" is indicated on the transcript.
The current system allows unlimited retakes, and in essence gives students incentive to cheat in courses as the consequences are not very significant. It is a system which can reward "cheat until you get caught," with no consequences of note.

Recommendation:

1. The ASC makes the recommendation that any grade received which is in part the consequence of academic misconduct be so noted on the student's transcript with a designation such as "F-M" where the grade is "F" followed by a "-M" which indicates the grade was due to Academic Misconduct.