

ACADEMIC BOARD ATTENDANCE LIST
17 March 2009

In Attendance	
YES	BG Sam Hines
YES	COL Spike Metts
	LTC Tara McNealy
	Mrs. Marcia Bonica
	COL Angie LeClercq
YES	LTC Bill Woolsey
YES	MAJ Sylvia Nesmith
	School of Business Administration
YES	COL Ron Green
YES	COL Mark Bebensee
YES	MAJ Wes Jones
	School of Education
YES	COL Tony Johnson
YES	MAJ Jennifer Altieri
YES	COL George Williams
	School of Engineering
YES	COL Dennis Fallon
	COL Ken Brannan
	COL John Peeples
	School of Humanities and Social Sciences
YES	COL Bo Moore
	COL Mark Del Mastro
YES	COL Gardel Feurtado
YES	COL David Allen
YES	COL Keith Knapp
YES	LTC Steve Nida
	School of Science and Mathematics
	COL Chuck Groetsch
	COL Joel Berlinghieri
	COL John Carter
YES	COL John Moore
YES	LTC Paul Rosenblum
	COL Randy Blanton
	ROTC Departments
YES	COL Richard Townes
YES	COL Douglas Fehrmann
YES	COL Paul Dunahoe
	Guests

Agenda Items for the 17 March Meeting of the Academic Board

ITEM 1. Approval of the 17 February 2009 Minutes.

The minutes were approved as submitted and without opposition.

ITEM 2. Report from the Faculty Council (LTC Woolsey)

LTC Woolsey presented four action items from the Faculty Council. Midterm grades; Adding + and – grades; Faculty manual editorial corrections; and proposed change in uniform policy in the Faculty manual.

LTC Woolsey reported that it is the position of the Faculty Council that mid-semester grades should no longer be awarded. The rationale of the Faculty Council is that these grades are not official, are based on a small portion of the work of the course, and serve no official purpose. There was little support for this position by members of the Academic Board. Several alternatives were offered: making mid-term grades Pass/Fail; providing mid-term grades only for freshman cadets; or providing mid-term grades only for Core Curriculum Courses. After much discussion, it was moved and seconded that no change be made relative to mid-semester grades. This motion was passed with one opposing vote. Following the decision making process, LTC Woolsey will take the position of the Academic Board back to the Faculty Council. If the Faculty Council agrees with the position of the Academic Board, there will be no change in mid-semester grading policy. If the Faculty Council does not agree with the position of the Academic Board, both positions will go forward to the Provost for final decision.

LTC Woolsey reported that it is the position of the Faculty Council that the current grading system of A, B, C, D, and F be expanded to include + and – grades as follows:

A with 4 Quality Points; A- with 3.7 Quality Points, B+ with 3.3 Quality Points; B with 3 Quality Points, B- with 2.7 Quality Points, C+ with 2.3 Quality Points, C with 2 Quality Points, C- with 1.7 Quality Points, D+ with 1.3 Quality Points, D with 1 Quality Point, and D- with .7 Quality Point.

The rationale of the Faculty Council is that these additional grades would enable the Faculty to evaluate student work more accurately.

COL Metts reminded the Board that with the implementation of Banner, the new administrative software package, no change in the current grading policy could be implemented before fall 2010 at the earliest.

BG Hines pointed out that Clemson and College of Charleston had made the move to + and – grades and that both had made studies of the impact.

In discussion, several points were made: faculty members who have worked under a +/- grading system in other institutions seem to like it; since the grade of A will remain the highest grade available, this system might hurt the top students; even if the change is implemented, faculty could still use only the current grades. After considerable discussion, the motion was tabled until additional information can be gathered to include the reports from Clemson and College of Charleston

LTC Woolsey reported that it is the position of the Faculty Council to make the following changes in language regarding the wearing of the uniform by the Faculty in the Faculty Manual:

III. Faculty

F. Uniforms and Military Rank

5. c. On campus, officers of the College will be in uniform at all times that they are on duty except when the Corps of Cadets is on leave. The faculty is considered to be on duty between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at any other time the faculty member is meeting with cadets in an official capacity. The general philosophy is that the faculty serve as role models for members of the Corps of Cadets and should be in proper duty uniform while contact with cadets is likely.

Replace with

5. c. On campus, officers of the College will be in uniform at all times that they are on duty. The faculty is considered to be on duty when teaching classes in the day program that include members of the Corps of Cadets. Policies regarding the uniform for Faculty Meetings, including general Faculty meetings, school meetings, department meetings, and committee meetings will be determined by the relevant body, with appropriate adjustments on a case by case basis.

The rationale of the Faculty Council is that this revised statement reflects the actual practice of many, if not most, faculty, that with this change, members of the faculty would no longer be in conflict on a daily basis with the policy on wearing the uniform, and that faculty members who are reluctant to wear the uniform might be more inclined to comply with this revised policy.

BG Hines expressed surprise that some faculty members might not be wearing the uniform while teaching cadets and asked that he be supplied with the names of these faculty members.

It was pointed out that the statement being revised might have been taken from College Regulations. If that is the case, the change would have to be approved by the Board of Visitors.

Several points were made: this change would make policy reflect reality; there is no compelling reason to stay in uniform while not in class; wearing the uniform only in class would parallel the practice at Sewanee where faculty wear academic gowns while teaching; faculty members might be more inclined to meet standards for wearing the uniform properly if it is only required while teaching cadets.

After considerable discussion, the motion was tabled for further review.

Because of the lateness of the hour, the Provost decided that the remaining two items-- Retention and Four-Year Graduation Rates (Provost) and Options for the Core Curriculum in Programs for Non-Traditional Students (Provost)—would be delayed until the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac S. Metts, Jr.

Associate Provost for Academic Affairs