

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
of the  
**ACADEMIC MATTERS AND  
UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION COUNCILS**  
concerning  
**A POLICY ON EXTRA CREDIT**

Presented at the  
694<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
May 6, 2010

**COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

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**ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL**

**Background**

The issue of Extra Credit usage by faculty members and the lack of a University policy was brought to the attention of the Academic Matters Council by Catharine Porter, University Ombudsperson. The University does not have a policy in place regarding Extra Credit, and the recommendation from the Ombuds Office was to require a faculty member who gives extra credit points to assure that every student can avail her/himself of the opportunity.

**AMC Observations**

Some of the issues identified through discussion include the following: 1) financial – a student may not be able to afford participating in an extra credit assignment, such as attending a play or another event, due to financial reasons, 2) time – if the extra credit opportunity is beyond class time, a student may not be able to participate because of work or other obligations, and 3) fairness – whether the extra credit assignment or activity is “accessible” to all students.

**AMC Recommendations**

The Academic Matters Council proposes that the issue of fairness is an important one, and that a student should not be precluded from participating in an extra credit event, activity or assignment for reasons beyond their control (financial, time or otherwise). As such, we recommend the following Extra Credit Policy be adopted:

Extra credit may be included in course grading policies at the discretion of the instructor. If opportunities for extra credit are offered, they should be equally available to all students, taking into account scheduling, economic, or other obstacles to participation. Reasonable alternatives for extra credit should be considered in cases when such obstacles are likely.

**UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION COUNCIL**

At its meeting on February 22, 2010, the Undergraduate Education Council (UEC) wholeheartedly concurred with the recommendations of the Academic Matters Council and members of the Council noted that the extra credit policy being proposed was in the best practices demanded by basic considerations of fairness.

**MOVED: 38-10** That the Faculty Senate adopt the Extra Credit Policy to be used by all Faculty/Course Instructors, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-032.