

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL
concerning a
**POLICY ON REGISTRATION APPOINTMENT
MODIFICATIONS**

**Presented at the
682nd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
March 12, 2009**

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

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I. Background/Rationale

On April 14, 2008, the Athletic Council of the Faculty Senate wrote to Chancellor Thomas W. Cole, Jr. requesting that he look into difficulties experienced by student athletes in gaining access to appropriate academic courses given their practice schedules and competition times, facility availability, and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility requirements. On September 19, 2008, the Dean of Commonwealth College submitted a letter to the Faculty Senate requesting that Commonwealth College students be included in discussions regarding advanced course registration policies as they have constraints in fitting honor course requirements, capstone research, and extra workloads into their academic course schedules. The Academic Matters Council Policy Subcommittee was asked to evaluate the concept of advanced course registration on this campus.

II. AMC Observations

The AMC recognizes that various student cohorts across campus may, within the current University course registration system, incur difficulties in registering for certain courses needed to fulfill their requirements toward graduation. If indeed the current University course registration system is problematic to a particular student cohort and impedes timely progress toward a degree, an advanced course registration appointment schedule should be implemented for this student cohort.

III. AMC Recommendation

The University may identify activities that the Registrar is authorized to take into account when assigning registration appointment times for undergraduate students. If such activities may reasonably create conflicts with regularly scheduled courses, affected students may be considered for an advanced registration appointment. Activities meeting the following conditions may be approved for eligibility by the Provost after consultation with the Faculty Senate:

1. The activities must involve the participation of a broad class of students (vs. individual students).
2. The activity must be University-sponsored or University-approved.
3. If the activity involves time constraints (e.g., athletic team practice times) that decrease the flexibility of opportunities or open time frames for courses for the students, these constraints should be defined.

Any University department or program may request that a specific activity be made eligible for advanced student registration. Requests must indicate the class and number of students affected and the specific activity conflict for which accommodation is requested, defined as narrowly as possible (e.g., "seniors with activity X in the spring semester," vs. "all students participating in activity X"). The Registrar will establish timelines for the consideration of requests for fall and spring semesters, including deadlines for receipt of requests.

The Registrar will make the final decision regarding the nature and duration of modifications. Before implementing approved requests, the Registrar shall consider impacts on staff, technology (SPIRE system), and scheduling for other students.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Policy on Registration Appointment Modifications, 30-09 as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-029.