



May 11, 2012

To: Students' Council 2012-2013

Re: Report of the Vice President Academic

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Hello Council,

The past two weeks have been spent transitioning into the job, acquainting myself with various SU departments, and meeting with key University administrators. Thus, this report will be sparse compared to future reports.

## **I. Assessment and Grading**

Based on recommendations from a specialized committee, University administration drafted a policy, which is now being approved through University Governance. The committee included an SU representative, and produced a number of recommendations: primarily, how we assess ought to be transparent to the student, overseeing department or faculty, and to employers or accrediting bodies. The current policy being approved contains a loophole that allows departments to determine their own grading curve for instructors to follow, without communicating it to students either on the syllabus or in the calendar.

I spoke against these changes at the most recent GFC Executive meeting, emphasizing that students have a right to know the criteria and process by which they are graded. Despite the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) and the SU collectively voting against the proposed assessment and grading policy, it will be brought to GFC on May 28 for approval.

## **II. Provost Review Committee**

Colten and I spent the entirety of May 14 reviewing the work of the current Provost and Vice President (Academic) Dr. Carl Amrhein. The content of the meeting is highly confidential, but it was fascinating to glimpse the hyper-complexity of the work of the University's Chief Operating/Academic Officer.

## **III. Student Representation on GFC Subcommittees**

Together with Discover Governance, the SU welcomed a number of new GFC subcommittee Students-at-large. In order to support their transition on to a high-level committee, Discover Governance prepared a welcome package for these students.



There are still a number of vacancies on GFC subcommittees, including the Facilities Development Committee, Nominating Committee, Undergraduate Awards and Scholarships Committee, Academic Appeals Committee, and University Appeals Board. Sitting on a committee is an excellent way to learn more about the work of the University, and to bring a student perspective to major decisions affecting all of campus. If you or a peer are interested, please contact me as soon as possible.

Cheers,

  
Dustin Chelen