

New grading system

by Sharon Deck

You goof off during your freshman year and then find that you can't get your quality point average up to a 2.0 in time to graduate.

Or you come back to school from the Army, determined to work hard, and find that all your D's and F's in your early years cancel out the A's and B's you are making now.

These are some of the inequities that a proposed change in the undergraduate grading system would rectify.

Although a faculty committee is still working out the kinks in the proposal, it would work something like this:

During a student's college career, he would be allowed to take grades of No Credit on a certain number of courses. Grades of D and F would be abolished.

The number of "no credit" grades a student could receive and still stay in school would decrease each year. For example, freshmen might be allowed to get four grades of no credit without having to withdraw. Sophomores may be allowed two, and so on up the scale.

This is similar to the present system, which requires freshmen to have a 1.25 to continue, sophomores a 1.50, juniors a 1.75, and seniors a 2.0.

Courses in which a student gets a grade of no credit would be counted only in determining whether he will stay in school.

They do not count toward graduation. To graduate, a student must make a grade of C or better on all required hours. For most degree programs, 120 hours of C or better work would be required.

Obviously, this means that some students would have to be in college for more than eight semesters in order to earn 120 hours of satisfactory grades.

But it also means that flunking a few courses will not get the student into so deep a hole that he cannot get out. As long as he does not fail more than the prescribed number of courses each year, he can stay in school and not have his quality point average hurt.

The proposal, if accepted by the faculty, would remove some of the punitive aspects of the present system.

As it now stands, a student who fails a course loses the hours he attempted and lowers his quality point average. He is paying twice for flunking one course. Under the proposed system, he would still lose the hours, but would not lose out in overall average unless he flunked too many courses.

Supporters of the proposed change hope that it will help each student to clarify his own academic position.

Because of the complexities of the present system, a student is not always sure that he can bring up his average in time to graduate with a 2.0. He may plod along and waste time until his junior year, when he finally realizes that he

cannot get his average up.

With the proposed system, a student would know exactly where he stands. He will be able to tell early whether he should continue in school or drop out for a few years and try later.

If a student did leave and decided to come back a few years later, some of his "no credits" would probably be "forgiven," or erased. He would not have to worry about bringing up a low QP in order to graduate.

There is some disagreement about whether the new system would raise the standards for graduation or not. The proposed system would require 120 hours of C or better work. By placing a premium on a grade of C, it may be saying in effect that a student with 120 hours of C's is better qualified than a student with 60 hours of B's and 60 hours of D's.

But proponents of the change feel that the advantages of floundering or slow-starting students would outweigh the disadvantages.

A formal proposal will be presented at a general faculty meeting in the near future. A faculty committee has been working on the proposal since November.

Holshouser here

Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Holshouser will appear in an open discussion session with students at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 8, on the 10th floor of the Dalton Library Tower.

Although the discussion will be primarily between Holshouser and students, other interested persons are invited to attend and observe.

Patterson:

non-entity President

"Sometimes I feel as if I'm the president of a non-entity," Stan Patterson said in an interview last week. The non-entity of his reference is of course, the body of 4000-odd practitioners of vending-machine learning that comprise most of the student body here at UNCC.

In the interview, he told this reporter of the manifold opportunities of student involvement in affairs both academic and governmental that go largely unfulfilled because of the lack of students sufficiently interested to do the work.

In several instances, the hard work and planning of a few talented and dedicated individuals will go to waste for the want of a few interested students to give substance to their ideas.

One such instance is the Rathskellar idea conceived by the departed, lamented Charlie Sutton. Thanks to the efforts of about 6 per cent of the student body, the Coffeehouse addition to the Student Union could easily become a viable social institution by the end of this year.

Sutton has convinced an initially-skeptical Administration; student-architect Scott Farraby has drawn up and finalized the plans; and provisions for funding have been made.

After all this effort, the project may die stillborn for the want of 51 dedicated, hardworking students to serve on the Coffeehouse Board



DR. JORDAN

— His dismissal is only symptomatic of the troubles of UNCC. Read Reflections on a Brick Wall Pages 6-7.

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than a few dozen would be interested in their school's affairs. The SGA is thinking of installing branch offices in the commuter complex and other buildings around the campus to bring these opportunities closer to the students, particularly the commuters. So far, the most successful approach has been for already involved students to contact their friends and bring them into the circle of activism.

While this approach is working, it is not working fast enough. The result is that a few people, taxed beyond all reason, are doing the work of many. Sometimes the work is done hastily; sometimes, not at all.

If it seems that nothing ever gets done at this University, it is not primarily the fault of the institution concerned. The structures exist; but there are no people to fill them. The Kingdom was lost for the price of a nail.

A FABLE

Once upon a time in the land of Neverwas there was a student. This student worked very hard and diligently especially in his Hypersensical Nonsense class. He made A's on all of his examinations all through the class. At the end of the course he was surprised when the instructor gave him an F on the course. The student went to the instructor and asked him politely why he had received an F when he had made A's on the examinations. The instructor informed him that it was not his policy to make public his criterion for grading. The student then went to his advisor who told him that he could appeal the grade to the instructor but was advised that he not appeal at all. Thus was the student shafted.

(See page 12 for fable's key and moral.)

"Spring election schedule"

February 9&10, 1972 — Nominations for the following offices: a. President; b. Vice President; c. Student Union Board (7 seats); d. Six (6) Senate seats (nominations made by legislators on Feb. 7, 1972; for 12 people.)

February 23 & 24, 1972 — Elections for previously nominated offices.

February 28 & 29, 1972 — Nominations for the following offices: a. Editor's of the Newspaper, Year Book, Literary Magazine, Radio Station; b. Business Managers of the Newspaper, Year Book, Literary Magazine, Radio Station; c. Student Court Judges (5); d. Any constitutional amendments.

March 8 & 9, 1972 — Elections for previously nominated offices.

March 15 & 16, 1972 — Nominations for the following offices: a. Student Legislature (excluding Freshman President, Commuter Representatives and Dorm Representatives); b. 4 Student Senators by petition and 4 Faculty Senators by petition.

March 27 & 28, 1972 — Election of previously nominated offices.

—furnished by SGA Elections Committee

