

Many ECSU students opposed to tough new attendance policy

by Sonya Holley
and Tiffany Newell

ECSU students who cut a three-hour course more than six times can now fail the course, according to the terms of the University's tough new attendance policy.

The faculty approved the policy last Dec. 5, and the University's Board of Trustees enacted it at their December meeting, beginning with the spring, 1996 semester.

The new policy allows instructors to place a limit of three unexcused absences on a three-hour course. A course offering two credit hours can allow from two to four cuts, and a one-hour class allows one to two unexcused absences.

"The old (attendance) policy seemed to permit virtually unlimited absences from class," said Dr. Dennis Brown, chairman of the committee that spearheaded the new policy.

Brown said the new attendance policy was designed to encourage students to make the best grades they can while discouraging absences.

"Students can be most successful when they come to class regularly," said Brown, director of the University's Incentive Scholarship program.

Under the new policy, students will no longer get excuses from the assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs. The instructor must approve students' excuses for missed classes.

"The faculty person in the classroom has the most immediate, best knowledge of how a student is performing in the class and how repeated absences are affecting that student's performance," said Brown.

Students are still responsible for material covered in classes they missed, Brown added.

Instructors must notify students of the attendance policy in the course syllabus. Instructors are required to take attendance at each class session.

The new attendance policy has generated opposing views among ECSU students, with many students expressing resentment about being "forced" to attend classes.

"We are in college so why should we need an attendance policy," said Shrona Smith, a sophomore criminal justice major. "If students want to pay their money and not go to class, let them. The attendance policy is stupid."

Other students say they feel their voices weren't included in discussion of the policy.

"I think they're forcing their viewpoint on students because they did not include students when they voted,"

said Tamika Spruill, a junior English major. "We're paying for our education, we have the right to know what is going on."

Trenace Fayton said Student Affairs and SGA need to increase the variety of the students asked to participate in meetings.

"Just because a student is not a student representative, it doesn't mean that he or she can't make an intelligent decision," said Fayton, Miss ECSU for 1995-96.

When informed of these complaints Brown said the attendance policy committee requested students to attend meetings for participation in revising the old policy. Committee members sent letters to students' mailboxes and made follow-up phone calls requesting their participation, he added.

"Unfortunately, we didn't get much student participation in the meetings we held, even though every one was notified in writing a week in advance of the time and places of the meetings," Brown said.

Brown said two former students, Tarik Scott, SGA President for 94-95, and Lynn Jordan, Miss ECSU for 94-95, participated in meetings about the new

policy. Current SGA President James Cherry also participated, he added.

Cherry said he supported the six-cut minimum.

"Six classes are more than enough," he said. "Even if the students were more involved, they couldn't vote as a body on the policy because all policies voted on for the University are voted on by the Board of Trustees."

Students who fail classes for non-attendance will receive a grade of "FA," said Brown. Students can appeal the grade, however.

A student who wants to appeal a grade must first talk to the instructor, then to the department chairperson before appealing to an attendance policy board. The board will be composed of faculty, students, and administrators.

Several students said they supported the new attendance policy.

"Attendance should be required for students at ECSU," said Jean Samuel, a senior English major. "Many students learn in different ways, but if one pays their money to attend a university or college, that person should do everything he can to obtain the best education."

'Inadequate...'

Administrative officials close campus police entrance booth

by Tamika Y. Spruill

After many years of faithful service, "the hut," ECSU's security booth, is empty.

"University officials made the decision to close the campus security booth after a study of the campus security department," said John Smith, special assistant to the chancellor.

"The campus security booth offered no value in terms of security on campus," said Smith, who supervises the campus police department.

That was the conclusion of a group of three security officials from other campuses in the UNC System — Charlotte, N.C. State, and Wake Forest University.

The security booth was deemed inadequate because it had no facilities for proper telephone operations and equipment. This included no adequate message service and no recorder on the phone for incoming calls.

"The security department was trying to run a police department out of a security booth," said Smith. "It was degrading and embarrassing to the University and to the police officers."

The booth also offered no protection for officers, no bathroom facilities and inadequate space to write reports.

"Security inside the booth was at best a wave and a smile," said Smith. "The officers could hardly stop anyone."

Could closing the security booth allow more outsiders access to our campus?

Smith says no.

"We will not have anymore outsiders coming in than what we have had previously. Real criminals do not come through the front way of the campus anyhow. They use other entrances, including the one by Symera Hall and the Marion D. Thorpe Administration Building."

One ECSU student said she agreed with the change.

"I really did not see a purpose for the security booth when it was in operation," said Tiffany Newell, a sophomore. "I feel that they were letting any and everybody on our campus."

THE WALL

Do you love me?

*Then why do you keep me dangling like a jackal —
while you lure the next skirt
with the attention I beg for?*

Do you hate me?

Please tell me something.

You know my weaknesses; you know my strengths.

You know what makes me tick and what doesn't.

I thought you felt something for me underneath

all your sarcasm, but I guess I was your pet to

pass the time with.

Now I suffer, ache, cry.

Now I feel loneliness.

I never asked you for anything but respect.

You probably laugh at me

in front of your friends

like I'm the ultimate freak.

And your new beau smiles

because she has what I lost... or never had.

What did I do to make you despise me so much?

Why do you push me away? I would have given

you anything — even my place on the throne of peace.

I need an axe to tear down the wall that smothers me —

the wall that reminds me of you.

— ANGELA BURRUS

