

Rule 1.0

by Michelle Godard

A new academic policy that suspends or dismisses first-semester freshmen and first-semester transfer students who fail to maintain a grade point average above a 1.0, has claimed six main campus students and six continuing education students this semester. This policy was enforced for the first time after being thoroughly discussed by the Admissions Office, the Clerks committee, and the faculty.

The two main campus and the two CCE students that had a 1.0 gpa were suspended for the academic year and may reapply for readmission on academic probation after their suspension period. Those four main campus and four CCE students who did not achieve a 1.0 gpa were dismissed from the college indefinitely.

Before this policy was established, a first-semester freshman or transfer student who earned a 1.0 or below was only given academic probation. Academic probation is still given to those who have attempted 20-39.9 credits and fail to achieve a cumulative quality point average of 1.5, students who have attempted 40-74.9 credits and have not maintained a 1.7 cumulative gpa, and students who have attempted 75 or more credits and fail to obtain a 1.9 cumulative gpa (The Guilford College 1986-1988 Bulletin). Students placed on academic probation must earn at least a 2.0 gpa during that term to continue at Guilford College.

This new policy for first-semester freshmen and first-semester transfer students was created primarily in response to a study that found that "last

year the list of students separated (suspended or dismissed) from the college at the end of the year was very similar to those who were in extreme academic difficulty at the end of the first semester," said Anne Ponder, Associate Academic Dean.

Ponder hopes that the policy will catch "potentially unproductive citizens" who "by the end of their first year would have done significant damage to their academic career." Though the college is monitoring the

policy's process and its effects, Ponder states that "thus far I am very pleased that the students who have been separated from the college have that possibility that it will be a productive opportunity for them."



Ann Ponder, Associate Academic Dean.

Photo: Eric Buck

South African Report

by Holly Fairbairn

Confusion about post-divestment strategies has been dispelled by members of the Committee on South Africa. After meeting for a second time since Guilford divested in September, their proposals for promoting social change are many, although concrete action has been delayed by the desire to make informed decisions.

A proposal for scholarship assistance for South African students became the object of rumor after it was unexpectedly revealed to a group gathered in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on January 18. Anthony Gurley, Director of Financial Aid, was present at the gathering and announced that a Trustee Endowment Fund earmarked for minority and international students had been merged with a request for a new fund for South African students.

On January 21, Gurley explained that, "my in-

structions on October 7 were to freeze the fund and reserve it for qualified South African students." (Eligible students this year were not affected, because the money has already been awarded.)

The minority and international student fund is just one Trustee Endowment fund and is not the only resource available to these students to create a financial aid package. However, it is the largest that shows preference for Afro-American and international students (principal holdings are around \$250,000). Currently, it generates around \$22-23,000 each year in usable aid money.

The Committee on South Africa, composed of trustees, faculty, staff, and students, recommended that scholarship assistance be made available by, "showing preference for South African students," according to Judy Harvey, Director of the Friends' Center and member of the Committee.

Because the Trustee fund for minorities and international students was already in place, the two programs were merged. It was hoped that the move would attract more donations now that there is a designated fund for South African scholarship assistance.

What remains to be decided is exactly how preference will be shown to South African students without limiting aid to other international and Afro-American students.

The Committee was at first unclear as to how this would be accomplished, but after a meeting Harvey had with Jim Newlin, Director of Finance, she clarified the Committee's role as an advising body. The Committee will participate in "a process (that) will be set up in Admissions and Financial Aid to determine how to recruit South African students and award them scholarships." She added, "I want to stress that we welcome input from any member of the community."

The more immediate project on which the Com-

mittee is focused is getting a collection of books that were donated by students into South Africa.

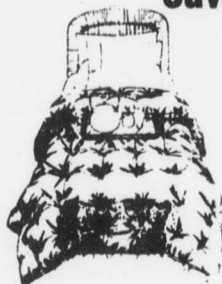
Three bins of books have been sorted and are ready to be mailed as soon as the Committee can decide where to ship them, how to pay for the shipping, and how to keep the program sustained so that books can be continuously donated.

Several other proposals are being considered, such as Guilford's sponsoring an International Quaker

delegation to visit South Africa, having exchange programs with teachers and students, and assisting teacher education there. On-campus programs to educate the community are also in the works--strengthening African Studies and bringing speakers onto campus have been suggested.

Please contact any of the on-campus members of the Committee if you have any concerns or help to offer.

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