

## REPORT OF THE SCHOLASTIC STANDARDS AND PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

The committee has one item to report to the senate:

### I. Academic Forgiveness for Former Students.

The committee, working in conjunction with Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committees from each of the System campuses and from the individual Colleges, has formulated an academic forgiveness policy for former students. If each of the system senates adopts this proposal, we will have a unified coherent policy that will give equitable consideration to all our former students.

#### Rationale

Academic forgiveness for former students offers those who have left the university an opportunity to return with a reasonable chance to complete a degree. Many capable individuals have a disastrous first time experience at the university because they lack maturity, experience a personal crisis, or choose an unsuitable major. Such individuals often give up precipitously, leaving a record with a large number of deficit points, thus making it impossible for them to ever attain an acceptable GPA. Under present regulations, no relief is permitted, no matter how long ago these academic difficulties occurred. In fact, some deans find it necessary to advise mature students who would like to return and complete a degree that their only recourse is to attend another university where they would be treated as transfer students. At present we often treat transfer students better than we do our former students. The attached forgiveness program was developed for students who have left the university, had life-maturing experiences, and would now like to return to the university. This policy does not address the problems of currently enrolled students with marginal GPAs. This is a different issue which should be considered separately. The purpose of this policy is to bring equity to the way we treat transfer students and our former students.

Specific advantages of this form of forgiveness are:

1. It requires a definite amount of life-maturing experience.
2. It requires that the student demonstrate serious progress in a university program.
3. It does not force a student to repeat courses in order to achieve forgiveness, as do many other forms of forgiveness.
4. It does not require a student to repeat courses which contain material that has been adequately mastered.
5. It would encourage transfer students with previous USC work to return to USC for completion of their degrees.
6. It is sufficiently flexible to be enforced as a university regulation while recognizing the prerogatives of individual colleges and programs to maintain standards that are more stringent than the University's.

The committee requests that the Faculty Senate adopt the attached policy on "Academic Forgiveness for Former Students." If passed by the Senate, this policy will become part of the Academic Regulations in the 1992/93 Undergraduate Bulletin.

Approved  
4-1-92

## ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS FOR FORMER STUDENTS

Academic Forgiveness means that students' past failures are forgiven to allow them to resume their college careers with a realistic possibility of completing a degree. In essence, the program will allow the calculation of a grade point average (GPA) based on the student's performance in courses taken after being granted forgiveness.

<sup>n Undergraduate</sup>  
A student who meets all of the following conditions may apply for academic forgiveness:

1. The student was not enrolled at any University of South Carolina campus for at least 48 months.
2. The student must be readmitted to a degree program at the University of South Carolina and must complete at least 24 hours of approved graded coursework prior to applying for academic forgiveness.
3. After readmission to the university, the student must earn a cumulative GPA of at least 2.000 and meet the progression requirements of her/his degree program.
4. The student has not previously been granted academic forgiveness.

A student who has met these conditions and desires academic forgiveness must submit a written request for academic forgiveness to the Dean of the College in which the student is enrolled. After verification of the student's eligibility, the Dean shall inform the Registrar that academic forgiveness has been granted to the student.

Once academic forgiveness has been granted, the following apply to the student's academic record:

1. All curriculum requirements will be in accordance with those in force <sup>at the time of or</sup> subsequent to the student's readmission.
2. The student may not receive Academic Honors upon graduation.
3. The student's grade point average is recalculated beginning with the semester in which the student was readmitted to the university.
4. Courses in which the student received a passing grade prior to readmission and the granting of academic forgiveness may, at the discretion of the student's college, be used for academic credit, but are not used in the calculation of the grade point average.
5. The following statement shall appear on the academic record of any student granted academic forgiveness: "This student was granted academic forgiveness under the University of South Carolina Academic Forgiveness Program. No courses taken prior to [date of admission] ~~are used in the calculation of the GPA, but those in which the student received a passing grade may be used to meet degree requirements.~~ delete line"
6. The permanent academic record will remain an unmodified record of all work attempted at the University of South Carolina.