# Rutgers University Senate Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee Response to Charge S-0807 – Part 2 March 2011

**S-0807 Add/Drop Period:** Consider and report on the <u>Proposal</u> on the add/drop period submitted by Senator Candice Greaux, and the <u>related resolution from the Rutgers University Student Assembly</u>. Consult with financial aid personnel at Rutgers when discussing the issues in the proposal and resolution. Respond to Senate Executive Committee by December 2009.

# **Background**

ASRAC responded to this charge in January 2010 with a report with three recommendations:

- 1. that the current add/drop period be lengthened by one day; i.e., to an eight-day period to drop and a nine-day period to add, for the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters.
- 2. that these changes in the add/drop period be made on a trial basis and that ASRAC be charged with evaluating the results of the changes near the end of the spring 2011 semester and making a recommendation as to whether further changes should be made.
- 3. that Executive Vice President Furmanski, the Newark and Camden Chancellors, and the Deans of the various schools and colleges increase their efforts to convince faculty members to make syllabi available online for all courses during the preregistration period or at least well before the beginning of the semester. These syllabi should make it clear what the course requirements will be and on what basis students' work will be assessed, as well as what material will be covered.

These recommendations were accepted by President McCormick and both the add and drop periods were extended, on a trial basis, for the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters, The University Administration also increased efforts to have faculty members make syllabi available online in a timely manner.

## **Discussion and Recommendations**

ASRAC has concluded that it does not have sufficient information nor time to do a thorough analysis of the effects of extending the add/drop period before the end of the spring 2011 semester. There are several reasons for this conclusion:

- 1. The fall 2010 semester did not provide a good test of the changes to the add/drop period because, in New Brunswick at least, the add/drop period was extended for several extra days due to overlap of the end of the add/drop period with the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah.
- 2. In order to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the extensions to the add/drop period in a thorough manner, ASRAC would need to spend considerable time and effort consulting with deans, faculty groups, and student groups, as well as analyzing data on add/drop patterns provided by the Registrar. We believe that there are more pressing issues for us to spend time on in the remainder of this academic year; including developing recommendations on changes to the fall academic calendar in 2012 and beyond, dealing with our charge on merit scholarships, and providing input to the Academic Integrity Implementation Committee.

3. ASRAC has received very little feedback, pro or con, on the one-day extensions of the add and drop periods. This does not appear to be an issue of great immediate concern to most students, faculty, and staff. We therefore believe that extending the trial changes for another year will not cause any substantial problems, while giving us time to evaluate the changes in a more thorough manner..

Based on the above considerations, we wish to recommend that the trial extension of the add and drop periods be continued for another academic year, with the proviso that ASRAC will do a thorough evaluation of the add/drop period during the fall 2011 semester.

## Resolution

*Whereas*, the University Senate approved the extension of the add and drop periods by one day each on a trial basis for the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters, and

Whereas the Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee has concluded that it does not have sufficient information to evaluate the results of these changes and make recommendations as to whether further changes should be made before the end of the spring 2011 semester.

Therefore be it resolved that the University Senate asks that the trial extension of the add and drop periods be continued for the 2011-2012 academic year, and.

*Be it further resolved that* ASRAC be charged with doing a thorough evaluation of the trial extension of the add/drop period before the end of the fall 2011 semester so that any recommended changes can be put into place starting with the fall 2012 semester.

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