

Ann Gould

From: Rudy Bell <bell@history.Rutgers.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 10:01 AM
To: Ann Brooks Gould
Subject: Senate business

Hi Ann,

Now I regret my failure to enter elections for the Senate when my term expired, but here we are and I have a request.

Please consider having the Senate take up the issue of de-registering students who fail to pay their term bills. I have raised this matter, unsuccessfully, in the past on an individual basis with Registrar Ken Iuso and others. The answer is always that "the system works this way and cannot be changed". I disagree and hope that a strong Senate resolution will push Pres. Barchi to order a change in RU practices.

Background -- for as long as anyone can remember, students who did not pay their term bills by the first week of classes were de-registered.

Many of these students in fact were having technical difficulties with financial aid processing and managed to square away their monetary obligations and complete a good semester of. Key to their success was that they continued to attend classes and keep up with assigned work.

That was fine for 4-wall classes but the practice of de-registration is a disaster for online courses.

My current online course has 236 students, and a small but important fraction of them have been de-registered for failure to pay term bills.

The result is that they have no access to Sakai, where all the course material and all the lectures reside. E-College would be no different as a platform. De-registered students cannot participate in online discussions, which are graded for credit from the very first week of classes. They fall behind and risk failure even after they manage to square away their financial issues. It would cost the university nothing to let them stay abreast of the course work while solving the financial issues. The policy of de-registration is highly discriminatory against our students who depend on financial aid (where most of the screw-ups occur) and who happen to be taking online classes. I have tried urging students who are de-registered to continue on as "guests" but once they are dropped from the roster I cannot even find ways to reach them by email. The obvious solution is not to de-register the students and instead to hold up their transcripts if they fail to pay.

Please let me know if there is anything useful I might do to see that this matter gets attention from the Senate.

best...Rudy