

**Admissions, Standards and Honors (ASH) Committee Meeting, September 28, 2011  
Council Room, LSU Union**

Members present: Fahkri Al-Bagdadi, Sarah Bartolome, Graham Bodie, Andrea Houston, Gerald Knapp, T. Gilmour Reeve, Larry Smolensky, Maud Walsh, and Brian Antie and Patti Beste on behalf of Robert Doolos.

Guests: Richard Hughes, Karsten Thompson, Warren Waguespack, Ashley Junek

Andrea Houston, chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

**Presentation of proposals**

Ashley Junek, Assistant Dean of the College of Business, introduced a proposal to change residency for the College from requiring the last 30 hours to be earned as a student enrolled and taking courses in the college to requiring 24 of the last 30 hours and to specify that up to 6 hours of General Education Arts and/or Humanities in addition to free electives of Distance Program coursework from the Distance Program credit may be accepted toward the degree [see documents entitled ASH memo for Sept 9 2011 Proposals and Catalog changes for Sept 9 ASH proposals].

Karsten Thompson and Richard Hughes, Chemical Engineering, presented a proposal [see document entitled PETE Proposed Requirements] to change the admission requirements to the undergraduate program to include a grade point average of at least 2.8 at all postsecondary institutions. The rationale for the request is that faculty cannot provide enough classes for the large number of students currently enrolled, and that the petroleum engineering profession cannot absorb a large number of graduates. They discussed 2010 data for graduate in their program that indicate a strong correlation between final overall GPA and overall GPA at the time of application to the College of Engineering. Other methods for limiting the number of majors, such as requiring a "C" or better in some classes, was not sufficiently effective in reducing the number of majors. Bartolome asked whether there were options within the College of Engineering for students who cannot get into the Petroleum Engineering curriculum. Waguespack, Associate Dean in the College of Engineering, responded that Mechanical and other engineering curricula are available, and that students can stay in UCAC until their GPA improves, then request admission to Petroleum Engineering. Al-Bagdadi asked whether the stricter entrance requirements would cause international students to go to other universities, but Waguespack pointed out that there are cooperative agreements, such as with ARAMCO, to encourage international students to come to LSU and that GPA is rarely an obstacle.

**Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The minutes from the August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved with some corrections:

In attendance: Fakri Al-Bagdadi should be Fakhri Al-Bagdadi, Maude Walsh should be Maud Walsh

In paragraph 4, Blake Douglas should be Lake Douglas

## **Discussion of proposals**

### *College of Business*

As a point of clarification about the Business proposal, Houston said that the question about Distance Learning classes rarely arises. There was no further discussion, and Knapp moved that the proposals be accepted. The proposal was approved unanimously.

### *Petroleum Engineering*

In the discussion of PETE changes, Knapp asked how many other Engineering departments might follow PETE in raising admission standards. Smolenski asked whether it was appropriate to reduce majors based on the number of jobs available to majors. Al-Bagdadi pointed out that at the LSU Vet School student admission depends on the applicant pool, rather than on GPA. Houston said that she would like data from Sandy Walker in the Budget and Planning Office that would indicate how long it would take for new entrance requirements to lower significantly the number of petroleum engineering majors. She asked that committee members send her any questions and requests for additional information about the PETE proposed changes.

Reeve suggested an amendment to the proposed catalog statement that would be changed to read (changes shown in track changes):

An alternative for student who do not meet the cumulative gpa requirement, but display an exceptional ability and desire to be become a petroleum engineer ~~may be~~ <sup>is</sup> available. A committee including the Department's undergraduate advisor, the Department's Chair, and the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies for the College of Engineering will meet and review ~~applications~~ <sup>applicants</sup> prior to the start of each semester.

### **Additional discussion**

Reeve suggest that the Committee develop forms or procedures for proposals to ASH be developed so that deans know when departments submit request, and in the interest of having a record of signatures. Houston agreed that a procedure should be formalized.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

[Minutes submitted by Maud Walsh]