

Academic Standards, Outcomes Assessment and Faculty Affairs Committee
February 24, 2011, 2:30 p.m
LRC-201

Attendees: Jeff Morgan, Dr. Judy Oleks, Melinda May, Veronica Stein, Jennifer Haughie

Agenda Item #1 – Walk-away “F” grade

We completed our discussion of instituting a grade for those students who walked away from class and never completed the coursework. We thought that assigning them an “F” grade was misleading because they did not actually fail the course, but rather failed to complete the semester. Another grade designee may also help with HCC’s outcome assessment.

Melinda presented some of the issues associated with Shepherd University’s “IF” grade for those students. Essentially, if any of these students are on financial aid, they must return the money, which means the college is responsible for collecting this money and returning it to the Federal government, which would place a heavy burden on the college.

Jennifer explained how instructors would be responsible for accurate record keeping of attendance.

After considerable discussion which focused on the workability of implementing a walk away F grade, committee members reject the idea for the following reasons:

- The Financial Aid Office would be greatly impacted as money would have to be returned to the federal government.
- There would be greater responsibility on faculty as their record-keeping for students absences would have to be meticulous. Even if the full-time faculty could be convinced that their effort was for a good reason and they were willing to commit to the record-keeping, the adjunct faculty would likely provide a greater challenge with a willingness to adhere to new record-keeping standards.
- There would likely continue to be the same number of ‘F’ grades as students would continue to earn those grades at the same rate.
- Students would have to return the money to the College, and more staffing would be needed to collect that money.

The one upside to the walk away ‘F’ grade is the ability to distinguish between who stayed to finish the class and who did not, so a better understanding of the ‘F’ grade would be available. This would be very desirable data; however, the committee felt the negatives outlined above out-weighed this benefit. Therefore the committee recommends not moving ahead with further efforts on this matter.

