2006 SPRING REPORT
TO THE
FACULTY OF
ELON UNIVERSITY

By the
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

July 2006
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Committee Reports
   Admissions Committee.................................................................3
   Academic Technology and Computing Committee........................4
   Academic Standing Committee.......................................................5
   Faculty Athletics Committee .........................................................6
   Faculty Research and Development Committee.............................15
   Curriculum Committee ..................................................................16
   General Studies Council Committee..............................................17
   Graduate Council .........................................................................19
   Institutional Review Board ............................................................20
   Library Committee .......................................................................21
   Promotions, Tenure and Professional Status .................................22
   Religious & Spiritual Life Committee .............................................23
   Student Life Committee ................................................................25
   Study Abroad Committee ...............................................................27
Admissions Committee
Annual Report to Academic Council
2005-2006

Members: Gerald Francis, Mark Albertson, Susan Klopman, Kelli Burns, Hallie Hogan, Anne Simpkins, Janet Mays (Chair)


The primary responsibility of the committee is to work closely with the Dean of Admissions, Susan Klopman, in reviewing and updating the university admissions policy each year. A revised policy is voted on by the committee and presented to President Leo Lambert for approval.

The following change in the policy was recommended to the President and approved on September 22, 2005:

That for the 2006-2007 year, the goal will be 1250 new freshmen showing good potential success and exhibiting diversity, and with an average SAT of 1200 or more and an average GPA of 3.3 or higher.

The Committee also recommended a more rigorous standard of eligibility for admission for first-year students entering in fall 2007. This new standard requires the following:

A cumulative core grade point average of 2.5 or higher
A critical reading SAT of 400 or higher, a math SAT of 400 or higher and a combined total critical reading/math SAT of 900 or higher (ACT 19).

This recommendation was presented to Dr. Lambert, who signed it into policy.

Other meetings throughout the academic year meetings were devoted to the review of admissions status reports and applications from students not meeting the minimum admissions standards. Another recommendation of the committee was to consult with Human Resources on possibly creating a program to meet with faculty/staff children early in their high school careers to offer guidance and communicate an expectation level. It was hoped that this could help prepare these students for the admissions process and ease their transition into Elon.

Respectfully submitted.

Janet Mays, Chair
Admissions Committee
Academic Technology and Computing Committee
Annual Report to Academic Council
2005-2006

Progress on Objectives:

So many problems were resolved with technology (both in the classroom and with servers on campus) that the committee wanted to take this year to simply meet with various stakeholders on campus and find out what their concerns were. We found that most were happy with classroom setups, and except when an email server or Bb server becomes unreliable, there were no real complaints.

Most Significant Accomplishment:

Helping work out some flexibility in using card access for printing in the computer labs (to avoid long queues at the end of classes).
   • Forwarded to Academic Council
2. Recommendations to Academic Council on maximum course load for probationary students
   • Forwarded to Academic Council
3. Completion of white paper for Academic Summit.
   • Will be forwarded to the Academic Summit Planning Committee on April 21, 2006.
I. Evaluate the effects of the NCAA legislation - the 40-60-80 Rule – on the student-athletes at Elon.

This legislation states that students must have completed 40% of their degree by the end of their second year, 60% of their degree by the end of their third year, and 80% of their degree by the end of their fourth year in school. This legislation was written with the understanding that it would take five years for a student athlete to graduate.

Professor Hightower worked on the continuing eligibility for student athletes this summer and saw almost no evidence that this rule is a problem. Elon is in the unique position that much of what a student takes applies to all degree programs – the general education requirements. Hence when our students switch majors, they do not encounter as much difficulty as in other institutions.

When asked her opinion Dr. Barbara Boyette, the athletics academic coordinator, gave the following response:

“I think we are doing well. Because of it, we are especially careful in advising and in monitoring what a student takes and declares as a major. It seems that the transfer folks have the biggest issues with this – usually by coming in ineligible or by struggling to complete appropriate classes/credits. It certainly makes it difficult if a student started in one major and decided he/she doesn’t like it. But – we are working with it.”

The transfer issues Dr. Boyette mentioned have not hit us yet (as of this past summer when we did continuing eligibility). It is suspected that Elon will begin to see some problems this coming summer when eligibility for fall 2006 is evaluated. If the curriculum the student-athlete has taken elsewhere does not transfer well, he/she will be short of the 40-60-80 requirement and then Elon will begin to see problems. Professor Hightower thinks that what Elon does is keep coaches informed of this potential problem and make sure they are recruiting properly with this rule in mind.

II. Review and offer recommendations regarding fiscal integrity of Elon Athletics Department.
“Elon University’s Athletics Department is subject to exactly the same budget, accounting and audit procedures as any of the other units of the university,” according to Vice President Gerald Whittington. He stated that there was “…no concern about any financial issues concerning the Athletics Department after the last university audit,” and he has “…no concern about the financial integrity of the Elon University Athletics Department.”

Mr. Whittington added that “…the NCAA requires production of financial statements, reports, and analysis greater than that of any other unit in any university. This review and scrutiny has not found any issue which would cause any concern for the University.”

Mr. Whittington had great praise for our present and soon to retire Athletic Director, Dr. Alan White. He indicated that under Dr. White’s great leadership the Department has been fiscally sound with no sanctions ever.

III. Review and offer recommendations regarding adherence to established Gender and Minority Programs; this should include specific reference to the NCAA certification plan and Title IX accountability.

The current five year plan was created as part of the NCAA certification process which occurred in the 2002-3 academic year. The basic goal of the plan is to make strides toward “solving the problems” in regards to gender equity in athletics on Elon’s campus. The document summarizes program areas and what existed at that time. The 13 program areas are: athletics scholarships, accommodation of interests & abilities, equipment and supplies, scheduling of games and practice times, travel and per diem allowance, tutors, coaches, locker room, practice and competitive facilities, medical and training facilities and services, housing and dining facilities and services, publicity, support services and recruitment of student-athletes. After the initial definitions, a comprehensive set of tables gives the areas listed above, the goal for that area, the steps to achieve that goal, who is responsible, who has oversight, and the timetable for accomplishment by fiscal year.

The following is a report on the issues and extent to which goals have been achieved for the 2005-2006 academic year, as well as on the initiatives set for 2006-2007.

I – Structure/Governance: Elon has made progress on the hiring of women into the athletics administration. Specifically, in the past year a woman was hired to fill the position of Assistant Director of Compliance. The Faculty Governing board has also made a positive effort to maintain a gender balance on the Faculty Athletics Committee in recent years.
II – Coaches: While no full-time head coaches were hired this past year, the administration has just recently given the approval for a new full-time assistant for women’s track and field. This position will be advertised in the 2006-07 year, with a priority being that a strong pool of women applicants is included in the field. This new hire is in response to the intent to add at least 5 new participants to the current women’s track and field program.

III – Student-Athletes: The student body is 60% women and 40% men while the athletics program is reversed – 40% women and 60% men. In order to encourage stronger participation by women, extensive research and ongoing discussions were held regarding adding another women’s sport by 2006. Studies found that no new sport would clearly be an appropriate and feasible addition to the Elon women’s program at this time, given that Elon offers all the women’s sports sponsored by the Southern Conference. Instead, the administration feels that addressing participation issues and budgetary imbalances would have a more positive impact on the existing women’s sports here at Elon. To this end, 3 new scholarship grants for women’s sports were added in 2005-06, with approval for an additional 5 scholarship grants to be distributed in 2006-07. The grants will be distributed across each women’s team, with track and field receiving the largest percentage. The reasoning behind this distribution is again to try and take advantage of the large number of participation opportunities that currently exist and reach the ultimate goal of increasing the number of women’s track and field participants by at least 5. The increase in scholarships across the board is a good demonstration of Elon’s commitment to women’s sports as a whole and should ultimately aid in more competitive recruiting for these sports.

IV – Sports Programs:
   A - Operating Expenses: In addition to increasing the number of scholarships, the administration will also increase the operating budgets an additional 5% beyond the standard annual increase for each women’s sport offering. Again, this is in lieu of the addition of a new women’s sport offering and reflects Elon’s desire to increase the quality and competitiveness of our existing women’s sports. This increase in operating expenses may be used (coaches’ discretion) for items such as recruiting, equipment, supplies, etc.
   B - Scheduling of Games/Practice Times: The scheduling of the weight room has been adjusted to accommodate women’s teams at peak times. The schedule change seems to continue to work well as no complaints have been voiced this year.
   C - Publicity/Promotions: WSOE, the Elon student run local radio station, continues to broadcast all of the women’s basketball games played at home, and in addition has broadcast several away games. Live statistics are also available for all home basketball games. WSOE has
also begun to broadcast several volleyball matches as well. The ultimate
goal of the publicity team is a commercial broadcast – this issue will be
discussed during the 2006-07 year with the new commissioner of the
Southern Conference.

V – Annual Review: Faith Shearer attended the NCAA sponsored Title
IX Seminar in New Orleans this past year. The main focus of the
conference was on the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) survey which is one
of the options for assessing Title IX compliance. While Elon does not
currently use this survey, many questions regarding its distribution and
assessment were discussed. In addition, Vicki Hightower, Elon’s FAR,
will attend the NCAA Compliance Seminar in June 2006.

IV. Review and offer recommendations regarding student athlete welfare
utilizing survey instruments including the Senior Questionnaire.

Professor Hightower has spent time interviewing Dr. Barbara Boyette,
Director of Academic Programs for the Athletics Department. Dr. Boyette
listed the following programs as evidence of high regard for student
welfare and academic support:

- Student assistance program – if an athlete sees a problem with a
  fellow athlete he/she can contact a member of this program
  anonymously and get help for the at-risk athlete. Dr. Boyette
  reports that is program is working well.
- Study Hall for student-athletes who fall below 2.2 GPA and
  freshmen from some sports teams.
- Laptop available for checkout on weekends when student-athletes
  are traveling
- Book check out for scholarship students – done directly through
  Dr. Boyette’s office. The athletics department works with the
  bookstore to bundle the needed materials, and return used books at
  the end of the semester.
- Required Freshman-athlete orientation – introduction to Elon
  athletics and methods of finding help.
- Champs-Life Skills program. Dr. Boyette provides speakers for all
  athletes – Progress reports for at-risk student athletes.
- SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Council) meets monthly and
  student representatives bring issues and concerns to the meeting
  and then report back to their respective teams.
- A Student-Athlete Handbook is published annually and distributed
  at a team orientation meeting where items are thoroughly
  explained. This handbook lists rights and responsibilities.
- Dr. Boyette works through the registrar’s office to assure that if
  possible student-athlete class schedules can be adjusted to allow
  for entrance into special required classes. This is done only in
special cases and not necessary for the majority of the student-athlete schedules.

Professors Davis and Hightower will meet to review the survey given to senior student-athletes at the end of March after the survey has been taken by all this year’s senior student athletes. Recommendations will be forthcoming at a later date regarding the survey results.

V. Request a general information report on Athletics Department governance to include organization chart, SOP manual(s), student handbook(s), etc.

Dr. Jean Schwind examined the 2005-2006 Elon University Athletics Staff Manual. This manual includes an updated organization chart (p. 8) and a list of the members of the Athletics Director’s Cabinet (p. 9), as well as lengthy sections on operations policies, job descriptions, compliance/student-athlete issues, recruitment policies, and budget procedures. The manual is current, well-organized, clearly written, and meticulously detailed.

Dr. Schwind also reviewed the 2005-2006 edition of the Elon University Student-Athlete Handbook, both in its spiral-bound hardcopy edition and online at www.elon.edu/athletics/docs/Athletic_Handbook_05-06.pdf. It contains information on maintaining eligibility, academic policies, financial support, conduct expectations (i.e., “The Top Ten Standards for Elon Athletes”), drug testing, training services, and other subjects. Like the Staff Manual, the Student-Athlete Handbook is clear, thorough, and easy to use as a reference tool. The handy, diary size of the hardcopy Handbook and its inclusion of a daily planner on which students can record assignments and deadlines help to ensure that it will actually be used by students.

Current information about support services available to student athletes is available at www.elon.edu/athletics/services. These services, which include initiatives such as the NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills program, are designed to help student athletes excel academically and participate fully in the life of the campus community while fulfilling their commitments to varsity athletics.

VI. Request a general information report from the Athletics Department Compliance Coordinator.

The following is a general report on Elon’s compliance with Southern Conference as well as NCAA regulations, and other general activities.

• Reported Violations:
To date, there have been no reported Southern Conference or NCAA violations, either primary or secondary.

• Drug Testing:
  o While the NCAA conducts random drug tests annually, Elon has yet to be contacted this year. 48 hours is typically given between notice and the on-campus testing. Testing is random across athletes but always incorporates athletes from football and track, as well as other sports again chosen at random.
  o Elon also conducts an institutional drug-testing program for “street drugs”. Additionally, athletes are not necessarily chosen at random. This allows the institution to investigate students where they believe a problem may exist. This year the institutional drug-testing program resulted in 2 positive tests. As the outcomes of each of the tests were severe, both athletes were suspended from the university.

• Team Meetings
  o At the beginning of each school year team meetings are conducted with every team individually in order to discuss the student-athlete handbook, opportunities available to student-athletes on Elon’s campus, academic expectations, etc. Barbara Boyette, Vicki Hightower, Faith Shearer, Clay Hassard, and Catherine Walker are in attendance at these meetings to provide information on these topics to students as well as answer any questions.
  o In addition, this year will be the first year that the administration also conducts year-end meetings with the student-athlete groups. The purpose of these meetings will be to gather information to hopefully strengthen the student-athlete experience here at Elon.

• Outside Student-Athlete Funding
  o NCAA provides additional funding for student-athletes in the form of the Special Assistance Fund and the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund. A report on the usage of these funds are outlined below:
  o Special Assistance Fund
    ▪ Money for this account is allocated by the NCAA to each conference, who in turn allocates funds to its universities. This is a need-based account, with eligible students being those athletes who are also pell-grant recipients.
    ▪ As annual funds are allowed to accumulate, Elon has typically used this allocation somewhat strictly so as to be sure and identify the most disadvantaged student-athletes. These funds are used to fulfill unmet financial
need – typically things such as clothing and other special needs. Receipts are required to verify the usage of funds.

- Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund
  - Money for this account is allocated directly from the NCAA to individual universities. The purpose of this fund is to help those student-athletes not eligible for the Special Assistance Fund.
  - In order to insure an equitable distribution of these funds, as well as to fulfill the greatest need, Elon uses this fund to purchase comprehensive insurance for student-athletes who are otherwise uninsured.

VII. Review Athletics Department mission statement along with annual goals and objectives; request subsequent reports on accomplishment of annual goals and objectives.

**Mission Statement:**

The mission statement, available on-line at [http://www.elon.edu/athletics/docs/Athletic_Handbook_05-06.pdf](http://www.elon.edu/athletics/docs/Athletic_Handbook_05-06.pdf), clearly defines the Athletics Department’s desire to provide a transformative experience to student athletes. The statement also mentions the Department’s desire to provide “An environment in which cheerleaders, musicians, faculty, staff, alumni, and fans can participate and enjoy a wholesome, entertaining, and enriching experience.” While this statement clearly expresses the Department’s desire to include all participatory groups involved in the different aspects of its athletic events (from band members, cheerleaders, to fans), it could be strengthened with a statement that expresses Elon University’s interest in maintaining a positive experience for visiting teams (including student athletes, coaches, staff, and fans). Such a statement would be consistent with the values of Elon University and the Athletics Department by fostering good sportsmanship, integrity, and responsibility.

**Annual Goals and Objectives:**

The goals of the Athletics Department, available on-line at [http://www.elon.edu/administration/priorities/divisional_priorities_05-06/athleticspriorities0506.asp](http://www.elon.edu/administration/priorities/divisional_priorities_05-06/athleticspriorities0506.asp), include (i) meet budgetary requirements necessary to maintain departmental function, (ii) continue to enhance the student-athlete experience, (iii) administer new NCAA academic standards and academic progress for student athletics, and (iv) enhance athletic facilities. The Athletics Department was clear on how it was to achieve these goals and was mostly successful in achieving them. Nevertheless, in reviewing the summary of the fall survey completed by student athletes
(see Faculty Athletics Committee, Annual Report, April 1, 2005, p. 3), it would appear that 2 out of 5 student athletes did not feel strongly that athletics promoted their academic growth. In addition, nearly half of the students felt that athletics did not promote their social growth. Clearly these are items that should be considered in Goal 2 (enhance student-athlete experience), and should be included as future objectives that address these concerns.

VIII. Request general information report from Athletics Department regarding awarding, reducing, and terminating athletic grants-in-aid.

Awarding of athletic grants-in-aid is administered by the office of Financial Planning. Grants-in-aid (GIA) are given on one year renewable contracts and student-athletes, with remaining eligibility receive either a grant-in-aid contract or notice of non-renewal. For the 2005 – 2006 academic year, there will be approximately 240 renewals and less than four nonrenewals. As of February 15 there have been three voluntary withdrawals and one appeal which was resolved by the Athletic Director. (Final numbers will be available in early April.) The FAR, Athletic Director, Director of Financial Planning, coach, parents and chair of the FAC, along with the student, are all notified of revocations a grant-in-aid.

The GIA renewal process will begin in early April and NCAA regulations require it to be completed by July 1. Any student-athlete may appeal a non-renewal or reduction by following the grievance procedure outlined on page 25 of the Student-Athlete Handbook. There have been no non-renewal appeals this academic year.

IX. Request general information on athletic scheduling in light of transition to Southern Conference.

Committee members reviewed Elon University Athletics Sports Scheduling Policies as shown in the Athletics Staff Manual. This document indicates that scheduling is basically a function of the conference with endorsement by conference athletics directors. Contests and tournaments are scheduled by officers of the conference with consideration given to academic calendars of each member institution. Elon athletics staff monitor away and home games for balance and every attempt is made to avoid conflicts with the academic calendar such as exams, orientation and other “special campus events.” All programs stay within the NCAA-I maximum and minimum scheduling requirements.
Non-conference schedules are formulated by head coaches with approval from appropriate Athletics Administrators. Out-of-season contests are not held outside a 100-mile radius to avoid missed class time. On occasion, schedules are influenced by TV.

Elon has installed lights in Latham Park (baseball field) and this addition will help in reducing missed class time due to home games.

The Committee feels that Elon Athletics Administrators are aware of potential scheduling problems and are continually working to minimize or eliminate them.

X. Request periodic updates/reports from FAR regarding NCAA and Southern Conference issues.

Professor Hightower, the FAR for Elon, is placed on the agenda of each meeting of the Faculty Athletics Committee and at that time reports on any issues that have been raised by either the NCAA or the Southern Conference with regards to student-athletes, regulations and legislation. She frequently has handouts on issues for the committee members. Reference to this information can be found in the minutes of each meeting. Copies of handouts can be obtained from Professor Hightower upon request. In addition, each member of the committee receives periodic emails on NCAA and athletics issues.

It is the policy of the Faculty Athletics Representative at Elon University to periodically inform the Faculty Athletics Committee with regard to the following issues:

- Legislation enacted by the NCAA
- Legislative issues supported by the Southern Conference
- Concerns with regards to academic progress of Elon athletes
- Continuing eligibility concerns
- Welfare of student-athletes
- Missed class time concerns
- Other issues that surface at NCAA meetings
- Other issues that surface at SOCON meetings
Curriculum Committee

Annual Report to Academic Council

2005-2006

- Presented for faculty approval the new Italian Studies minor (approved by Curriculum Committee in May 2005)
- Approved new courses for the Honors program.
- Approved revisions in the MBA program.
- Approved two independent majors: Art History (Sara Davis) and Women and Gender Studies (Charlie Remy)
- Approved Leadership Minor.
- Entrepreneurship Concentration approved within the Business Administration major.
- New courses for the Elon College Fellows program approved.
- Approved an internship requirement for the Business and Accounting majors.
- Approved a new Coaching Minor within the Department of Health and Human Performance.
- Approved addition of a program leading to a license in Academically or Intellectually Gifted education to the M.Ed. program.
- Courses added or changed in: Anthropology, Biology, Dance, Education, English, Health and Human Performance, Philosophy, Sociology, Performing Arts, Physical Education.
1. To obtain follow-up report on implementation of the foreign-language requirement.

The foreign-language department has developed a more extensive assessment plan than we had envisioned last year. Council is particularly interested in ensuring that advising encourages students to fulfill their foreign-language graduation requirements before their senior year. Scott Windham will present a report on this item at our May, 2006, meeting, along with a general description of the department’s assessment plans.

2. To assess the laboratory science requirement.

This item was placed on the agenda at the last Council meeting in spring 2005. It was discussed by Council at its August and September meetings. Of particular concern were

- variation in implementation of the lab science requirement across courses,
- definitions of the requirement that might allow lab science courses outside the physical sciences,
- lack of linkage between student performance in lecture and laboratory components of some science courses, as suggested by variation in student grades, and
- lack of assessment in relation to General Studies goals.

Jeffrey Coker, member of Council and the biology department, was asked to present an informal report at Council’s October meeting on these concerns. After reviewing current practices at Elon, surveying practices at peer institutions, and evaluating the availability of time and lab space, Council recommended that no action be taken at present to change the laboratory science requirement. However, physical science courses for lab science credit are part of the general studies assessment process, discussed below.

3. To examine how 100- and 200-level courses are meeting the goals outlined in the General Studies Mission Statement.

Council formed a subcommittee in September to create an assessment instrument. The design was a simple grid, with courses taken to satisfy general studies requirements on one axis and general studies goals on the other. Departments are to indicate which goals each
listed course supports, and also to communicate the process used to arrive at their judgments. The instrument was approved at the November meeting and distributed to chairs of arts and sciences departments in February. As of April 21, 40 percent of the department chairs have returned assessment data to Council. Follow-up communications will be made to increase compliance with this first request for assessment information.

4. To develop a five-year plan for General Studies

A plan developed by the new Director of General Studies beginning Fall 2006, Janet Warman, will be presented to Council at the May meeting.

5. To establish subcommittees for the larger tasks noted above

Subcommittees were established for assessment as well as for Council’s normal work in evaluating course proposals.

Additional objective: To gain faculty input on GST 110.

Council was asked to review the status of GST 110 in Fall 2005. Substantive initial discussion occurred during the November meeting, with Steve Braye presenting data from current and past course instructors. Further discussion was planned for Spring, particularly to encourage input from new faculty, veteran faculty, and students. The issue became part of the Council’s work in preparation for the 2006 Academic Summit, with substantial discussion planned for an instructors’ meeting, conducted by Steve Braye, in May 2006.

Current status of the discussion may be found in Subgroup 5 deliberations in the attached General Studies Council Academic Summit White Paper.

Additional objective: To contribute to the 2006 Academic Summit

Two spring Council meetings were dedicated almost exclusively to the formation and work of five subgroups, each composed of GS Council members as moderators and volunteers from the broader faculty community. A General Studies Council Blackboard website was established, and minutes from the subgroups were posted after the March meetings. Discussion boards contain subsequent comments and minutes with discussion and recommendations from the April meeting. The Blackboard site and discussion boards are active; a White Paper drawing from deliberation records is attached.
Progress on Objectives:
1. Work with graduate programs for development and discussion of issues
   • On going.
2. Establish working relationship with Law School
   • Leary Davis visited with the Graduate Council and presented law school curriculum.
3. MBA curriculum revision
   • Went to curriculum committee where it was passed.
4. M.Ed. curriculum revision(s)
   • Passed curriculum committee.

Most significant accomplishment:
Major curriculum changes in two of the graduate programs - MBA and M.Ed.
Institutional Review Board  
Annual Report to Academic Council  
2005-2006

Progress on objectives:
- Get the IRB website up and running—complete
- Bring SURF presentations under the purview of IRB—trial run during SURF ’06.
- Review applications to IRB: Reviewed 120 as of March 31, 2006, including 30 off-contract (during the Summer).

The most significant accomplishment:
Getting the IRB website up as a source for documents and information relating to the operation of the Institutional Review Board; bringing SURF closer to compliance with Federal Regs.
Progress on Objectives:
1. Oversee the transition from a departmental representative book ordering system, to an open book ordering system
2. Track departmental spending throughout the school year.
3. Allot the departmental budget and the special funds for the 2006-2007 academic year.
4. Familiarize members with the off-site storage situation.

Most significant accomplishment:
The transition to the new book ordering system, and the elimination of the departmental representative.
Progress on Objectives:

1. To review applications for professional status and promotion in rank and tenure
   - List of recommendations were received from the provost/vice president for academic affairs.
   - Eligible faculty were considered with assistance of relevant information through a series of deliberations.
   - Recommendations were given to the provost/vice president in November, 2005
   - Recommendations were accompanied by a brief explanation as basis for decisions.
Religious Life Committee  
Annual Report to Academic Council  
2005-2006

Progress on Objectives:  
Objective 1:  
To continue working to bring someone to campus to teach Judaism courses. Ideally this person would be willing to work with the Truitt Center to support religious diversity on campus.

Elon University was successful at hiring a part-time rabbi, Rabbi Green, to begin work in the Spring 2006 semester. The Rabbi will be working with the Truitt Center and Hillel to help promote religious diversity on campus.

To better assess Jewish needs on campus, the Religious & Spiritual Life Committee created an on-line survey that was sent to Jewish students through the Hillel Blackboard site. Rob Springer assisted in the administration of the survey. The survey (please see attached) contained questions regarding religious needs, dietary needs, and comfort on a UCC campus. The survey results were shared with Rabbi Green and Dean Jeff Stein, advisor for Hillel. The Religious & Spiritual Life Committee reviewed the results and is currently addressing the two following items:

1. The survey indicated a desire for Elon to better meet the kosher needs of its’ students. The committee will contact Aramark to see if there is a possibility of having Kosher-style meals available in at least one dining facility at each meal.

2. The survey indicated that Jewish students felt a lack of knowledge around campus regarding Jewish traditions, needs, holidays, etc… The committee agreed that one of the Truitt Student Leaders would take on the responsibility of creating a monthly piece in the Pendulum that would discuss different religions, their traditions, and holidays. There was also a strong indication that students were not being supported by faculty in their decisions to miss class due to religious observance of Jewish Holidays. The committee agreed to send out an e-mail at the beginning of the academic year to Elon faculty and remind professors to be respectful of students’ religious observances when scheduling tests. The committee also contacted the college deans and suggested that the deans encourage their schools to be considerate of religious holidays as department-wide attendance policies are now being created.

Objective 2:  
To examine a document entitled “The Spiritual Life of College Students”. This study examined the spiritual development of undergraduate students during their college years. The committee’s goal was to compare data from Elon students to other institutions.

The committee reviewed the document and made comparisons between Elon students and other students at UCC affiliated campuses. It was found that Elon responses matched those of the baccalaureate institutions as opposed to the religiously affiliated institutions. The committee felt that this reaffirmed that students are not choosing
Elon simply because it is affiliated with the United Church of Christ and that our students have a pluralistic view of the world.

**Objective 3:**
Further examine use for the newly renovated Holt Chapel

The committee has not yet addressed this objective.

**Objective 4:**
Examine ways to improve recruiting Truitt Student Leaders

The committee reviewed the roles of the Truitt Center Leaders. The Truitt Center has reduced the number of positions from 7 to 5. Historically, there has been a difficulty in recruiting enough students to fill the positions. The committee decided to send out an e-mail to Facstaff to encourage faculty members to approach students who they feel would serve well in the positions. The e-mail was sent out in March 2006. The committee will later assess whether this approach helped with improving recruitment.

**Most Significant Accomplishment:**
Our work on creating an on-line survey to address Jewish student needs and concerns was a large undertaking. While it took a great deal of time to generate a statistically sound survey, we were able to share the results with Rabbi Green. He now has a good sense of what the Jewish needs are on campus. This was a tremendous accomplishment. It has taken many years to get a Rabbi on campus. The committee feels this will provide a tremendous benefit to our current and future students. We are very proud of our work on this objective.
The main duty of the committee is to serve as an advisory committee to the VP of Student Life and Dean of Students on new student organizations transitioning from developmental to provisional status and then from provisional to active status. During the 2005-2006 academic year 14 student organizations gained provisional status, 10 of which are in the process of moving to active status this Spring. Eleven more student organizations entered the developmental phase during this academic year and are pending for provisional status, some will occur this academic year and some will be held over to Fall, 2006. We also formed sub-committees with separate objectives. Those, and the status report on each of them, is attached.

Student Life Committee
Social Honor Code Sub-Committee
10/12/05

Goals and Objectives of the Sub-Committee:

GOAL:
Ongoing representation by Student Life Committee members (faculty and student) in the planning and implementation of social honor code and integrity issues on campus.

Objectives:
- Representation on the campus-wide committee reviewing and evaluating the social honor code.  
  Achieved: Dianne Ford and Sam McGuire were active members of this committee
- Representation on the campus-wide committee reviewing alcohol usage data and programs.
  Achieved: Dianne Ford, Sam McGuire and Dr. Smith Jackson were active members of this committee.
- Representation on the campus-wide Smoking Committee as it implements committee recommendations.
  Achieved: Dianne Ford and Laurin Kier were active members of this committee.

Student Life Committee
Advisor Development Sub-Committee
9/16/05

Goals and Objectives of the Sub-Committee:

GOAL
Develop a program for student organization advisor development

Objectives

Determine what support advisors feel they need in order to help them do their jobs well
Determine what kind of training is needed
Develop/update an advisor website
Determine what incentives are needed to encourage fac/staff to become advisors
Course release/comp time/other compensation
Developing a mentor program
Having regular advisor lunches
Developing an advisor recognition program
Develop a way to assess student organization advising

Status: An assessment of advisors was conducted in the late Fall of 2005. Based on this information a Statement of Value for Advising Student Organizations was developed and submitted to Academic Council in the Spring of 2006. Hopes are that this statement was also forwarded to the Provost as it relates to staff as well as faculty. Alo based on this advisor assessment, implementation and/or improvements to a program for advisor development is in progress in the office of New Student Orientation and Organization Development.

Transportation goals/objectives

- Explore adequacy/availability of student parking
  - Capacity of McMichael lot
  - Athletes lot near stadium
  - Feasibility of adding more 2-hour spots

Examine shuttle system and pedestrian issues
- Take an active role in the Pedestrian Campus Plan: Develop campus awareness program and implement weekday pedestrian campus plan, and pilot weeknight travel safe transportation program
- Availability, timing, punctuality of apartment shuttles (University Pointe, Provence)
- Shuttles at night (no E-ride on weekends)
- Need for a shuttle to/from law school?

Improve traffic flow/congestion
- Explore ways to alleviate congestion near Elon Elementary at pick-up and drop-off times.

Status: Harlen Makemson and Joel Brody served as Student Life Committee liaisons to the campus Transportation Committee. Dr. Jackson also served on this committee.

Membership: Laurence Basirico, Olivia Bolen (student rep), Anne Bolin, Steven Braye, Vic Costello, Martin Kamela, Steven McCoy (student rep), Fred Rubeck, Betsy Stevens, Donna Van Bodegraven, Maureen Vandermaas-Peeler, Hal Walker, Robert Vick

Meetings: The committee met monthly throughout the year.

Summary of Accomplishments:

The committee received a record number of winter term proposals for WT 07. Faculty proposed a total of Nine courses for review. One was withdrawn by the faculty member who submitted it. The committee rejected one proposal, and approved seven for Winter ’07. This work, usually restricted to the fall term, carried over into the spring semester.

The committee received one proposal for a summer 2007 course. At the time of the writing of this report, that course has received its initial review and is being revised by the faculty member who submitted it.

The committee also discussed a few concerns raised by faculty members and different ways to make the studies abroad experience more substantial on the academic front.

For the second year in a row, the committee has failed to complete any reviews of existing courses (part of the charge to this body.) In the opinion of the current chair, it might be advisable to reconsider this task – or for the next chair to find some mechanism to make this task a priority for the committee to accomplish. Regrettably, our work load, combined with the difficulty of finding meeting times simply did not allow this group to perform this duty once again this year.