

John,

Dick Enstice recommends that the UG Curriculum Comm. get involved with developing a review process for the sorts of external exams discussed below. Would you be free to talk to Dr. E. and me about this sometime within the next couple of weeks?

Cookie

Karin Almasi wrote:

Hi Cookie, This email is just a reminder (for project queuing) that Dr. Bowman requested that a 'committee' should review the transfer credit awards for external exams such as: GCE-Advanced Level, International Baccalaureate, CLEP, Advance Placement. On occasion I find myself caught between academic departments and university administration. The academic departments want control over what credit is awarded. In fact, certain departments periodically review and change what transfer credit is awarded. The administration uses these programs as recruitment tools and advertises what Florida Tech awards. Both areas need to reach an agreement and know when changes are made. And of course the Registrar's office needs the final and latest decisions for implementation. Regarding the GCE-A levels: 1. Certain academic departments at Florida Tech give credit for 'A's and 'B's, but not for 'C'. Dr. Bowman's recommendation is to treat A, B and C grades equally. 2. The GCE-A level is an external exam regulated by certain approved examination boards in the United Kingdom. It is the 13th year of high school in the UK, USA college freshmen year. The Registrar's office is authorized to accept only the UK results (plus a West African Examination Board). GCE-A levels from other countries are more likely to be USA high school level. There seems to be a lack of knowledge of this in undergraduate admissions and as a result a student from Sri Lanka ended up with college credit that actually did USA high school level work. (I did get confirmation from AACRAO it is high school level.) 3. To further complicate matter on the GCE-Levels, for any given subject, a student selects modules to complete. For example-Mathematics, the student could cover modules on Calculus I and II or select modules that cover Calculus I and Probability and Statistics. The choices are not indicated on the GCE-A Level certificate. One must backtrack to the high school transcript, and the student normally provides syllabi to the math department before the second course is awarded. Thanks, Karin

John Engblom wrote:

Cookie, I just talked to Tom Bowman about the issues highlighted in Karin's email below. It seems to me that we need to get some baseline information (I assume from the registrar's office) on items 1 and 2. On item #1, I would hope that Karin could provide a spreadsheet on what criteria have been specified by each of the departments involved. If I understand the issue, the spreadsheet would highlight the extent of the inconsistencies across the university with regard to what grades are accepted. On item #2, I assume the registrar's office would have to research various "examining boards" to determine the level of the GCE credit obtained by students under their jurisdiction. With this type of information passed along to the curriculum committee, I think the committee could make a valuable contribution to establishing some uniformity and understanding on these GCE issues.