**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA**

**Undergraduate Readmissions Committee Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** June 6, 2011 8:00 a.m**.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Wendy Darby

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dumas, Ruth T.; Figueroa, Crescente E.; Rickard, Betty K.; Lovett, Thomas M.; Briley, Jason S.; Clark, Melissa N.; Darby, Wendy A.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lisa H. Clayton (unable to attend secondary to pregnancy complications)**;** Carla R. Hamilton; John C. Ledgewood

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Congratulations to Lisa Clayton on the pending birth of her first child.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The committee reviewed University policy for first time academic suspension. University policy currently requires students with one suspension to sit out a fall or spring semester. The committee discussed the fact that this is a fair and valid policy but that students with extenuating circumstances, such as family tragedies and disasters, should be considered for readmission without sitting out a semester. These unusual appeals could be heard by the Provost, the instructor, the Chair, and or Dean of the appropriate college. Decisions of exception reached after consideration of unusual circumstances could then be reviewed by the Readmissions Undergraduate Committee. Decisions of exception reached after consideration of unusual circumstances could be reviewed by the Readmission Undergraduate Committee. It was discussed that our current suspension appeal system works for the purposes for which it is intended; that is, to review extenuating circumstances, possibly meriting mitigation of the current University policy in situations beyond the first academic suspension.
2. More troubling is the number of UNA students facing first-time suspension and the proactive, intervention measures that could or should be implemented prior to academic suspension.  The committee noted 103 first time suspensions for the spring of 2011. By the time a suspended student appears before the Readmissions Committee, the matriculation battle has been lost. The committee also expressed a desire to have at risk students counseled and followed closely in order to avoid a suspension. An academic progress follow-up system as used by the Department of Athletics is one possibility and might be especially useful for identified at-risk students provided that the information is used by a mentor or advisor as an intervention tool.  Also, The Chronicle of Higher Education recently had an article about campuses implementing mandatory attendance for freshman level classes as a technique to better instill successful habits in beginning students.  Which interventions are appropriate for UNA is beyond the current charge of the Readmissions Committee, although the Committee can and has made suggestions.
3. Appeals for 3 students were scheduled for today. However, one student did not come to the meeting. The two remaining student appeals were heard and approved for readmission. Of these two students, one will apply for one class in June and one in July. The remaining student will wait until the fall to reapply.
4. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 22, 2011 8:00 a.m. Keller Hall 220/222. Room was confirmed with Cheryl Williams today.

**Adjournment**: 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Darby, Chair