

May 31, 2013

Chancellor Brady Deaton
105 Jesse Hall

Dear Chancellor Deaton:

Between June 2012 and May 2013, the Revision of Records (RoR) Committee dealt with 292 petitions for revision of academic records, including late grade changes. Of these, 182 petitions were approved and 110 denied. In addition, the committee authorized the Registrar's Office to handle 157 *pro forma* petitions. This represents an increase in the total number of petitions from 386 in 2011 to 449 in 2012. Part of this increase is consistent with a trend over the last five or more years which tracks the general growth in student population, but part is likely due to increased awareness of the RoR process among student advisors.

The numbers show a modest decline in the percentage of petitions approved, and this is due in part to efforts by the committee (including the indispensable contributions of Associate Registrar Victor Price) to better formalize the criteria used for assessment. For example, the committee now applies two tests to each petition asking for the removal of an entire semester based on extenuating circumstances (e.g., health issue, traumatic incident, etc.):

1. Do the grades in the semester in question represent an anomalous decline from past performance? In other words, are the poor grades best explained by the effects of the claimed extenuating circumstances or are they simply consistent with the student's past academic performance?
2. If there is evidence of an anomalous drop in the student's performance during the semester in question, does the student provide evidence to document the claimed extenuating circumstances?

This refined assessment criteria tends to reduce the number of successful petitions by students who are ineligible to enroll due to poor academic standing and are using the Revision of Records as a "Hail Mary" attempt to change their standing, but it does not change the committee's predisposition to give every benefit of the doubt to students who have demonstrated good academic performance in the past.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

On behalf of the Committee,



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