


Central Connecticut State University

Sent via e-mail and regular mail.

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Dr. Candace Barrington  
President, University Faculty Senate

Cc: Dr. Carl Lovitt, Provost and VP of Academic Affairs  
Dr. Siamack Shojai, Dean, School of Business

From: Jack Miller 

Date: May 27, 2011

Re: Senate Motion Number FS 10.11.033B

I have not approved this motion concerning graduation standards for the School of Business. It is not my typical practice to withhold approval on matters of academic standards but in this case I feel there has simply not been adequate information to persuade me that this is a reasonable change. I have discussed this on two occasions with the Provost, including one meeting approximately a month ago and most recently on Thursday, May 26. I expressed serious concern to him at both of those meetings, and I trust he forwarded those concerns to all those involved in bringing this proposal forward, both in the School of Business faculty and the Faculty Senate. I will limit this response to a few of my concerns. It is not an exhaustive list, but the following are some of the most pertinent in my mind.

- 1) Why limit student access but not hold the same students accountable to a high standard of accomplishment for graduation? This seems to me almost exactly backwards. As an institution, I think we should be giving students an opportunity to succeed but then holding them to high standards of accountability in measurement of that success; this does the opposite.
- 2) What does this say about a student's ability in courses in their major? Assuming for a theoretical discussion that a student enters with roughly 60 credits or half of the credits for a 120 degree, and they have at that time a 2.5 grade point average then they take an additional 60 credits in courses related to their major and achieve a 1.5 GPA in those courses, they will then have a 2.0 which would not be close to getting them admitted to the school but would in turn be considered sufficient for them to graduate (I recognize that this does not account for the rule of "C" or better in courses).

- 3) If, as it has been suggested by some, we are concerned that some students may have a 2.4 are just .1 away from graduation, and we feel badly for them, why are we not equally concerned about a student with a 2.4 who is .1 away from being given a chance to succeed in the school by admitting them?
- 4) What is the logic that is pervasive in every other program on the campus where there are barriers to admission (e.g. 2.5 as opposed to 2.0) which all uphold an equal standard for graduation but not in the School of Business?

Before I am persuaded that we should change a rule, which has only been implemented for a few years and seems to be working with good success, to a new rule, there will need to be considerably more information than has been presented to me as to why this is a reasonable idea. I am open to that explanation and am willing to change my mind if appropriate data are presented.

JWM/rcw  
Attachment