

Board Actions

At its Monday meeting, Regents took action on several items of interest to the University community. The Board:

- Suspended the University Writing Requirement (UWR) for all students who enrolled at ECU in Summer 2006 or thereafter, citing four new initiatives emphasizing writing and assessment that are imbedded in the curriculum.
- Gave the go-ahead for a doctorate degree program in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. The program is designed to focus on educational leadership in rural areas, and is to be developed, administered and delivered solely by ECU. The University will now move forward to seek approval of the program from the Council on Postsecondary Education.
- Extended the time limit for completing master's degree programs from seven to 10 years for programs greater than 40 hours.
- Approved a policy change to allow graduate students who encounter academic difficulties at some point in their graduate studies to pursue graduate degrees in other programs while remaining in good academic standing. The new policy mirrors that of our current policy for undergraduates.
- Approved a revision of University policy regarding "incomplete" grades. The new policy requires a signed agreement between the faculty member and student that clearly defines all conditions and deadlines the student must meet to not receive an "I" grade.
- Modified the University vacation policy to include an additional accrual of vacation at the 10th-year service mark. Under the new, revised policy, employees with 1-4 years of service will continue to accrue 10 vacation days per year. Employees with 5-9 years of service will accrue 15 days per year; those with 10-14 years of service will now accrue 20 days a year, and employees with 15-plus years will now accrue 22 days per year.
- Adopted a University bereavement leave policy to provide employees with up to three days paid time off to attend to matters relating to the death of an immediate relative, including a mother or father, a sibling or half-brother or sister or stepbrother or sister, a spouse, a child or step-child, grandparent or grandchild, in-laws of the same kind, or other persons with whom the employee had an "in loco parentis" relationship (day-to-day responsibilities for the care or financial support of a child or persons who had such responsibility for the employee when the employee was a child).
- Approved a modification to the University's Long-Term Disability Plan. Coverage under the current Plan is redundant with the coverage provided under the state retirement plan for ECU employees vested in that plan. Since the University has been paying for a benefit employees vested in the state retirement plan will not be able to use, the Board approved modifying the Plan to provide coverage for those employees with less than

5 years of service (not vested in the state retirement plan) and those employees who participate in one of the Optional Retirement Plan.

- Approved honorary degrees for former President Jimmy Carter, Nick Clooney, Lt. Gen. Robert Yerks, Craig Williams and William S. Daugherty and authorized the President's Office to determine a commencement where degrees can be accepted.
- Approved naming the tennis courts adjacent to Martin Hall for former ECU Tennis Coach J. Thomas Higgins.
- Authorized the sale of up to \$15 million in ECU General Receipts Bonds for the purpose of renovating Clay Hall and refinancing outstanding Housing System Bonds Series J, K, M, N and O at an appropriate time to be determined later.
- Approved Deloitte & Touche to perform the University's external audit. The firm has performed the audit the past three fiscal years.
- Approved a resolution commending Dr. Pam Schlomann for her five years of service as Faculty Regent. Dr. Malcom Frisbie was sworn in as Faculty Regent on Monday.
- Approved Faculty Emeritus status for Dr. Alan Beeler, Joyce Begley, Diana Brashear, Dr. Terry Busson, Dr. Terry Culross, Dr. Gayle Denham, Dr. Steven Falkenberg, Dr. Virginia Falkenberg, Dr. Dominick Hart, Dr. Gary Janicke, Betsy Kurzinger, and Carolyn Yang.