

Item A

Action Item: Proposal from the College of Communications to raise the undergraduate grade point average required for admission to its four undergraduate programs (Communications, General Editorial, Advertising and Telecommunications) from 2.6 to 3.0 for the 2002-03 year only. This proposal would "waive" (or suspend) the current provisions in Senate Rule 4.2.2.13 which now describe the minimum gpa as a 2.6 and say that "[a]ssuming all else is in order, applicants with a 2.60 undergraduate grade point average will be accepted."

This waiver (or suspension) would be in effect only for the 2002-03 academic year. The College has submitted a proposal for a rule change to the Senate Council for consideration by the Senate Committee on Admissions and Academic Standards, but it is impossible to give due consideration to a proposed rule change in time for new requirements to be printed in the Bulletin. Hence, it is necessary to deal with this issue as a proposal to waive (or suspend) the rule.

The Senate Council forwards this proposal to the Senate without recommendation.

Background: In 1987, at the request of the College, the Senate amended the rules to provide for selective admission (the present 2.6) into the College's programs. Though the minutes of the Senate meeting are not clear, the Senate apparently also passed a provision to allow the College faculty to change the minimum gpa on a year to year basis with notice to deans and directors and approval by the Senate Council. This portion of the proposal was not made part of the rules, and the present Senate Council Chair (and, with one exception, the other members of the Council) was unaware of its existence until earlier this month.

There is no question, however, but that the College has relied in good faith on this provision, which appears in the Bulletin, in seeking to raise its gpa for the 2002-03 year. The Dean notified other deans and requested the Senate Council to approve the 3.0 standard. The Chair informed the Dean that he would place the matter on the Senate Council agenda for the 28th, but that he was opposed to the Senate Council approving changes in admission requirements to Colleges.

At its January 28 meeting, the Council voted to send the matter to the Senate for action with no recommendation. The Council believes this is a matter with campus wide impact and should not be approved by the executive body. By majority vote, the Council declined to take a position on the proposal, feeling that it lacked sufficient input from affected persons to do so.

Implementation: Effective for the 2002-2003 academic year only.