

**Annual Report: Academic Year 2009-2010  
Davis Division: Academic Senate**

**Committee on Grade Changes**

Total Meetings <b>9</b>	Meeting frequency <b><i>Once per month during academic year</i></b>	Average hours of committee work each week <b><i>2-3 hours meeting and 6-8 hours additional review time.</i></b>
----------------------------	--	--

Total <i>Retroactive/Grade Change Petitions</i> Reviewed: <b><i>396 Petitions reviewed 133 approved</i></b>	Total of reviewed <i>Retroactive/Grade Change Petitions</i> deferred from the previous year: <b><i>1</i></b>	Total <i>Retroactive/Grade Change Petitions</i> deferred to the coming academic year: <b><i>1</i></b>
--	---	--

Listing of bylaw changes proposed: <b>See Attached</b>

Listing of committee policies established or revised: <b>Committee guidelines revised as of April 2010; revisions pending final approval by Academic Senate office.</b>
<b>Current committee guidelines posted at <a href="http://academicsenate.ucdavis.edu/GCC">http://academicsenate.ucdavis.edu/GCC</a></b>

Issues considered by the committee <b>See Attached</b>

Recommended procedural or policy changes for the coming year: <b>See Attached</b>

**Committee's narrative:**  
**See Attached**

The Academic Senate Committee on Grade Changes (ASCGC) has two recommendations for consideration by the Davis Division of the Academic Senate.

### **RECCOMENDATION 1:**

The ASCGC encourages the discontinuation of the E-NWS (Enrolled-No Work Submitted) grade as defined by DD Reg A540G. The E-NWS grade is associated with multiple problems:

- (1) The E-NWS grade, which does not appear on official transcripts, discourages students from dropping courses in which they have enrolled but do not plan on attending. Students who are enrolled but not attending a course strain already scarce campus resources. With online registration, it is a trivial matter for students to monitor and change their registrations. E-NWS is an anachronism.
- (2) It is the belief of the ASCGC that there is widespread misunderstanding of the E-NWS grade by campus instructors and thus the grade is often assigned when it is inappropriate or impermissible under Senate policy. Many instructors assign E-NWS grades upon request which, whether the grade is warranted or not, indicates a confusion about the purpose and nature of the grade. No doubt a few faculty use E-NWS as an expedient for helping students who performed poorly on say, the first midterm, which is necessarily work that had been submitted. Those faculty may well imagine that they are using E-NWS as a safety valve for students attempting a new subject area, even though such inappropriate assignment of E-NWS grades undermines the late-drop policies of the College Deans' offices.
- (3) Because the E-NWS grade provides the opportunity to enroll and then not attend a class without penalty, it has the potential to be abused. This is a problem for students participating in extracurricular university activities, which require that they be enrolled in a set number of units. For instance, the Intercollegiate Athletic Department has had to implement severe penalties to deter student-athletes from receiving E-NWS grades during competition season.
- (4) The E-NWS grade can cause financial aid to be misallocated, and even the retraction of a student's previously awarded financial aid. That is to say, a number of students use E-NWS as a way of receiving financial aid during that Quarter, although the situation regarding their progress towards the degree only worsens the next Quarter.
- (5) It is the belief of the ASCGC that E-NWS appears disproportionately in the cases that appear before the Committee because of academic trouble (as do Ds and Fs). Perhaps the E-NWS option allows a student in academic trouble to rally, but more often it seems that the student's situation worsens.

The impact of the E-NWS grade is significant: between fall quarter 2008 and winter quarter 2010 (as of May 19, 2010), the E-NWS grade was assigned **4,760** times, that is, at the rate of some 900 times per quarter. It is the view of the ASCGC that the E-NWS grade should be eliminated and that students who enroll but do not attend a course be assigned a failing grade (F, NP, or U). More likely, students will drop the course properly, including using late drops.

The ASCGC knows that it made a similar recommendation in 2003, only to have the Representative Assembly reject the elimination of E-NWS. Perhaps seven more years of experience justify the re-consideration of the recommendation.

## **RECCOMENDATION 2:**

The ASCGC encourages the improved training of instructors regarding the grading process.

Once a final grade is submitted, neither the instructor nor the ASCGC has the authority to change the grade based on a reconsideration or reevaluation a student's work – grades may only be changed in cases of clerical or procedural error. When requesting a change of grade, instructors must provide the ASCGC with a *detailed* explanation for the change.

If an instructor expects a grade to be close, controversial, or subject to more information than is available at the time of final grade assignment, the ASCGC encourages the use of the No-Grade ('NG') or Incomplete ('I') notations, as appropriate.

**2009-2010 Overview of Retroactive Petitions Received and Processed by the Office of the University Registrar (OUR)**

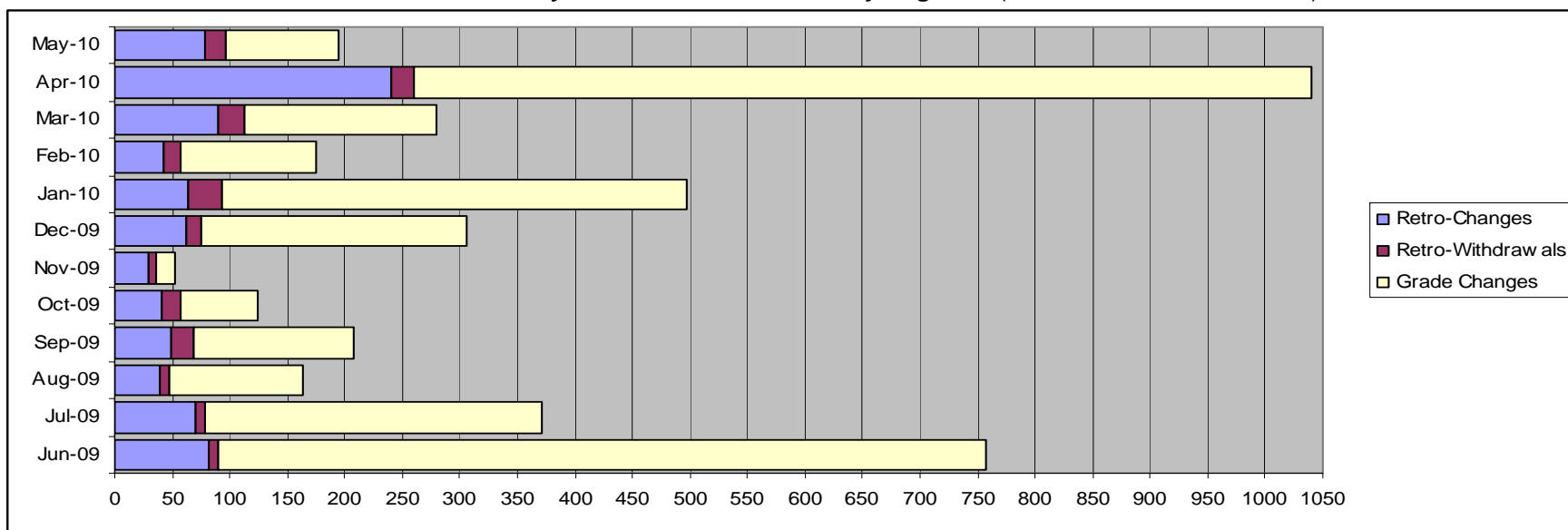
Reporting Period Start: June 1, 2009  
 Reporting Period End: May 31, 2010

Retroactive Change Petitions (“Retro-Changes”) include all Retroactive Drops, Adds, Unit Changes, and P/NP changes. Retroactive Withdrawal and Grade Change Petitions are submitted using specialized forms and so are noted separately.

Of the 4170 petitions submitted to OUR, 396 (9.4%) petitions were submitted to the Grade Change Committee (ASCGC) for review.

Month	Retro-Changes	Retro-Withdrawals	Grade Changes	Total
Jun-09	81	9	667	757
Jul-09	71	7	293	371
Aug-09	39	9	116	164
Sep-09	49	19	139	207
Oct-09	41	16	68	125
Nov-09	30	6	16	52
Dec-09	62	14	230	306
Jan-10	63	31	403	497
Feb-10	42	16	117	175
Mar-10	90	23	167	280
Apr-10	240	20	781	1041
May-10	79	18	98	195
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>3095</b>	<b>4170</b>

**Petitions Received by the Office of the University Registrar (Month x Number of Petitions)**



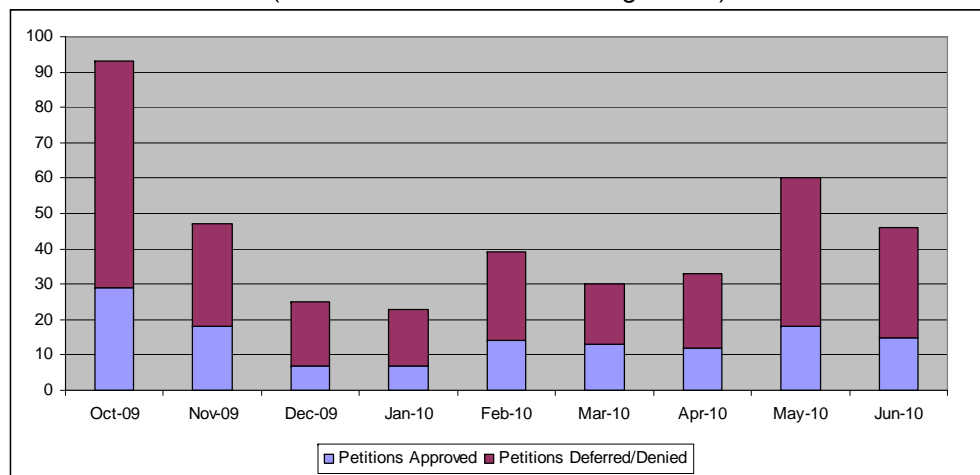
### 2009-2010 Overview of Petitions Considered by the Committee on Grade Changes

The below table indicates the number of petitions that are referred to the Academic Senate Committee on Grade Changes, as well as the number approved or deferred/denied by the Committee. The Committee met 9 times during the 2009-2010 academic year with a approval rate of 33.4 percent. 1 petition was deferred from the previous year; 1 was petition deferred to the next year. The chart below illustrates the approval percentages for each meeting. (Each cell has two numbers: *Petitions Approved / Petitions Reviewed*)

Meeting Date	# Petitions	A/D	GC	RA	UC	RD	RW	P/NP	Total
1. October 13, 2009	93 petitions	1 / 4	3 / 14	2 / 3	0 / 2	1 / 22	20 / 40	2 / 8	29 / 93
2. November 10, 2009	47 petitions	8 / 13	0 / 1	1 / 2	1 / 2	2 / 8	6 / 16	0 / 5	18 / 47
3. December 8, 2009	25 petitions	2 / 7	1 / 1	0 / 3	--	1 / 8	3 / 6	--	7 / 25
4. January 13, 2010	25 petitions	2 / 3	--	--	0 / 1	0 / 8	5 / 8	0 / 3	7 / 23
5. February 10, 2010	39 petitions	0 / 3	2 / 3	--	--	2 / 8	10 / 23	0 / 2	14 / 39
6. March 10, 2010	30 petitions	1 / 2	0 / 2	--	--	1 / 6	8 / 17	3 / 3	13 / 30
7. April 14, 2010	33 petitions	4 / 7	0 / 2	--	--	1 / 4	7 / 16	0 / 4	12 / 33
8. May 12, 2010	60 petitions	0 / 2	0 / 8	2 / 8	--	4 / 17	11 / 19	1 / 6	18 / 60
9 June 9, 2010	46 petitions	3 / 7	0 / 3	--	--	2 / 12	10 / 22	0 / 2	15 / 46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>396 petitions</b>	<b>21 / 48</b>	<b>6 / 34</b>	<b>5 / 16</b>	<b>1 / 5</b>	<b>14 / 93</b>	<b>80 / 167</b>	<b>6 / 33</b>	<b>133 / 396</b>

**Key:** A/D = Appeals/Deferrals; GC = Grade Changes; RA = Retro-Adds; UC = Unit Changes; RD = Retro-Drops; RW = Retro-Withdrawals; P/NP = Retro-Grade Mode Option Changes.

**Committee-Reviewed Petition Outcomes**  
(Number of Petitions x Meeting Month)



**Committee Approval Percentages**  
(Meeting Month x Percentage)

