



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Educational Policy Committee's Report on the Contextual Grading Transcript

Presented to the Faculty Council
Friday, March 24, 2017

Background

- Section 2 of Faculty Council Resolution 2011-3. *On Reporting Contextual Grade Information on Undergraduate Transcripts* directed the University Registrar to provide contextual grade information on undergraduate transcripts beginning Fall 2012.
- Section 4. Implementation, states, “To the extent that any element of this Resolution proves impracticable, the registrar shall report this situation to the Educational Policy Committee for consideration of amendment.”
- To date, implementation has been delayed due to technological challenges.



EPC Charge and Discussion

- In January 2015, Bruce Cairns attended the EPC meeting. EPC was asked to consider implementation of the contextual grading transcript in light of technical issues, and to provide an opinion to other faculty committees and Faculty Council.
- EPC discussed the issue and consulted with Faculty Council throughout 2015 and 2016, but most members felt it was inadvisable to offer a conclusion without access to objective data that could inform our perspectives.
- Thus, EPC requested that a formal process be put in place to examine the issues that had emerged.



EPC Process

On advisement of the Educational Policy Committee, in May 2016 Chris Derickson, University Registrar, convened a 12-member, broadly representative working group to comprehensively consider the proposed implementation of the Contextual Grading Transcript, including existing challenges and potential solutions. The final report of the working group is available on the Faculty Council website.



Registrar's Report to the EPC

On February 8, 2017, Chris Derickson presented to the EPC, the working group's analysis via their formal report.

Included with that report were Mr. Derickson's recommendations regarding the feasibility and advisability of issuing contextual grading transcripts at UNC.

Several risks were identified:

- Inconsistent consumption of the contextualized grade data
- Technological challenges
- Prohibitive cost (estimates were received from ITS in a separate communication)



The Registrar's Conclusion

“After long consideration of the issues that have been identified, especially the consistency concerns, the furthest I would be willing to go with my recommendation is to make the contextualized transcript an optional, unofficial transcript. ... The downside to this recommendation and one that EPC would need to consider is the amount of time and effort that would be spent to develop an unofficial transcript. I do see value to starting this new transcript as an unofficial version and letting interest and momentum build without the risks identified above, but that is a larger policy and budgetary decision that would have to be made.”



EPC's Conclusion

In weighing all available evidence, the EPC concludes that the technical challenges associated with accurately producing a contextualized transcript, coupled with the prohibitive costs associated with generating such a transcript make the implementation of the Contextual Grading Transcript, (either as an official or unofficial transcript of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) impracticable at this time.

