Minutes
Academic Standards and Policies Committee
Meeting of Tuesday November 9, 2004

Present: Suzanne Crawford, John Geiger, Samantha Thomas, Kirsten Underwood, Von Underwood.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05.

The minutes of the October 23 meeting were approved as amended.

The Chair reported that the questions from the committee and a copy of the OU policy on pre-finals week had been forwarded to Vice President Buckley and a response is expected in the near future.

The Chair invited the committee to respond to the OU policy. Crawford noted that the OU semester does not follow the same schedule as the Cameron semester and that the OU policy alone would not achieve the goal of establishing a reading period. K. Underwood noted that the policy does allow for some exceptions to be decided at the departmental level, which allows a necessary kind of flexibility. Geiger expressed a concern that some of the other language permitting deviations from the policy, and the number of exceptions to the policy, might render it ineffective for the students. The committee decided to review the policy very closely and study the implications of the sections for Cameron and at the next meeting in December to propose specific deletions, simplifications, clarifications, and changes to language of the policy appropriate for establishing a reading period at Cameron.

The committee reviewed and attempted to clarify specific alternatives currently under consideration. The fall and spring semesters would seem to require different sorts of actions because the fall semester currently ends on the Monday of the week of final examinations, and there are four days of finals, and the spring semester ends on a Friday and there are five days of final examinations beginning on Monday of the week following. The committee is seeking a way to limit some types of activity toward the end of the week before finals and to establish a reading and review day before finals begin. A number of proposals have been suggested that would achieve that goal. Vice President Thomas pointed out that beginning the fall semester a day early (one of the proposals mentioned) could create problems with regard to move-in dates for the dorms, and create some conflicts with the last orientation and registration dates. The chair agreed to put together a short list of the proposals discussed so far for the next meeting at 3:00 p.m. on December 7, 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55.