

From: Ed Schlesinger
Subject: RE: ReCoverHopkins Spring 2016 FINAL REPORT
Date: May 17, 2016 at 5:32:24 PM EDT
To: "recoverhopkins@gmail.com"

Dear Students,

Thank you for your e-mails and feedback about the announcement that first-year fall semester grades will no longer be covered starting with the Class of 2021. As Professor Ginsberg's earlier message indicated, faculty members and the administration of the Krieger and Whiting Schools have been working on the issue for many years, and have consulted with student leaders during that time.

Students groups, individual students and the #ReCoverHopkins Coalition have expressed a fair and reasonable concern that considerable time has elapsed between the Homewood Academic Council's 2011 decision to eliminate the covered grades policy and our recent announcement that the policy change would be implemented in August 2017.

In June 2012, the then-deans of the Homewood Schools began working with Homewood Student Affairs to plan efforts to enhance academic support services, implement new early-warning alert systems for students in need of additional academic assistance, develop new programs to bolster the support available to first-year students, and reinforce the academic success of all undergraduates. The development and launch of such systems, as well as leadership changes in the Homewood schools, delayed the implementation of the covered grades policy change.

During this time, and particularly in recent months, we clearly underestimated the importance of reminding the community of the Academic Council's earlier decision to end the covered grades policy and the process by which it was reached. Over the past several years, the News-Letter has continued to report on covered grades and the policy change, with articles and editorials both objecting to and endorsing the change. We gave too much weight to that episodic coverage of the issue and to informal conversations across campus, and we should have communicated more routinely about this important issue. Regular communications would also have eliminated any impression that the announcement was purposefully timed during finals, when students are focused on exams, which was not our intent.

We know the Academic Council has offered to meet with students to discuss the policy change and hear student views on the subject and to make its process and rationale more transparent. In addition, as we said in our previous communication, we will actively seek feedback from students over the coming year to help ensure a smooth and successful transition for future first-year students. Together with Homewood Student Affairs, we will evaluate the effectiveness of the services and programs on which our offices collaborate. Along with the vice deans in the Whiting and Krieger schools, we commit to meeting with students during the year ahead to discuss the measures we are taking to enhance student support services, to listening to new ideas and suggestions, and to working towards these shared goals together.

Sincerely,

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