

Reassignment of Instructional Responsibilities for William N. Bender

I would like to complete my 25 years of service to the university of Georgia, and thus, I have another 5 ½ years I'd like to teach here. This document proposes a reassignment of instructional duties, resulting in increased on-line teaching responsibilities, and elimination of direct teaching/supervision/advising. In our department, faculty never meet directly with on-line students, since they come from all over the state of Georgia, and do not come to campus. All course assignments and interactions are managed at a distance. Here are the parameters.

II. Current instructional responsibilities.

1. I currently teach three didactic courses per academic year, and do individual supervisions of students' projects, independent studies, etc. For the last six years, two of the three courses I've taught each academic year were on-line courses, and thus I've taught only one traditional course. That course typically meets in the evening, and is typically taught in the Spring semester.
2. I also supervise a number of masters students each year, and Ed.S. and Doctoral Students.
3. Another part of my instructional responsibilities involves major revisions each year of 3 on-line courses for the Dept. (SPED 7120, SPED 7220, and SPED 7230). These course revisions involve much more than merely redoing a traditional course, since each of these courses is an on-line course that will be taught by many other faculty.
4. I coordinate the on-line evaluations for the "short courses," which are stand alone content courses offered in conjunction with the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. This duty never involves meeting with students, but rather involves grading 2 to 5 short papers each month.
5. I have also taught one on-line course each summer, for the last several years.
6. Our department has a very large on-line non-degree program (SETWEB) and there are always multiple sections of courses that I can teach. Further, our department recently decided to offer on-line sections of various masters courses to our campus based students (included SPED 7120, SPED 7220, and SPED 7230), so there will be many sections of graduate courses on-line that I can teach each semester.

III. Proposed Revised Instructional responsibilities.

1. Increase my course teaching duties to include teaching two on-line courses per semester. Should the entire special education faculty's teaching load be revised to include two courses per semester, as is rumored, then at that time, my load should be increased to two on-line courses in the fall and three on-line course in the spring for the remainder of my time here.

2. I should retain duties such as continuing the revision of the three on-line courses, and continued grading of short courses.

3. For the three active doctoral students I have, and the one active Ed.S. students, a co-chair person may be assigned to work with me. I'd recommend Dr. Cecil Fore, who works in the office immediately next to me, and can thus attend all meetings with those students. Much of my work with these students will be managed via distance ed. exchange of papers anyway. These students will graduate between the Spring of 2008 and Spring of 2011. Given my proposed retirement in 2013, I do not anticipate chairing any more doctoral students.

4. I will be available to sit on committees for master's and doctoral students.

5. My current masters students should be reassigned to other faculty, with the exception of . . . te. Because I graduated a number of masters students last year, I believe this reassignment will involve only 3 or 4 students. I'd suggest that this reassignment take place now, via a letter from the Dept. Chair.

6. I'd request that this reassignment of duties be managed in a low-key fashion, based on a request from me for increased on-line teaching responsibilities. This should be possible since our department is currently undergoing restructuring anyway.

These revisions will eliminate any direct person to person contact between myself and individual students, except for meetings in co-chaired committees. Of course, I'll still be available for any duties assigned by my Dept. Chairperson.

III. I've been assigned to teach two courses during the Spring of 2008:

SPED 7220 On-line section, and
SPED 7220 Campus section as a traditional class.

My department has chose to offer campus students on-line course options, but that is not scheduled to begin until the 2008/2009 year. For this spring semester, I'd suggest that I be given two on-line sections of SPED 7220 to teach.

Other Requests/Ideas

1. If necessary, I'll consider a resignation this Christmas 2007, if UGA is willing to allow myself and my wife to continue within the UGA group retirement plan, with us paying the monthly premium for that plan. That is an option currently offered to every faculty member who:

- a. has 25 years of service to this university, or
- b. has 10 years of service to this university, and retires after the age of 60.

I am currently 54 (as of 9/26/07), and I currently have 19 ½ years of service to UGA. Thus, I have much more than 60 year old retirees are required to have. This service has been of value to UGA, and with me paying the premium, I'd hope that UGA can offer me this option, based on 19 years of service here, and 6 years of previous higher education experience.

2. I'll participate in whatever training might be required. Further, I will never socialize with any UGA student again, in any fashion whatsoever.

3. I'd request that all of this be managed in a very low-key fashion, with only My Dean and my department chairperson involved on the faculty.

4. I'd also request that any changes take place on December 10 of this year. Managing this at semester end, rather than now, will result in much less disruption to the campus, as well as much less emotional injury to me, my wife,