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ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE
Monday, August 29, 2022
2:30p.m. | UC Council Room
MINUTES

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Present: Allen, Benedict, Cieminski, Couch, Levin, Mahovsky, Matchett, Muller, Parker, Senbet ,Welsh, Wieben
Absent: Jensen

Call to Order
    The meeting was called to order at 2:32pm.
Approval of the Agenda
    Approved without objection.
Approval of the April 18, 2022 meeting minutes
    Approved without objection.
Announcements/Chair's Report (Levin)

Reports from Councils:
Graduate Council (Cieminski) – GC will be bringing policy changes for 799/dissertation credits.
Liberal Arts Council (Muller) – Indirect assessment of LAC courses launched last year, and the Council
    will be working this year to implement direct assessment of LAC courses.
Professional Education Council (Mahovsky) – PEC is working on accreditation and incorporating new
    matrices.
Undergraduate Council (Welsh) – No Report.
Student Senate (Jensen) – No Report.

Special Reports

Unfinished Business
- **Permanent S/U Grading Policy**
  - The committee reviewed S/U grading option recommendations provided by UGC last year.

DISCUSSION:
  - Should the application deadline be the drop deadline or withdrawal deadline?
    - Implications for rationale/purpose of implementing S/U option:
      exploration/lifeline/both
  - Should the S/U option be available for UG courses at any level or restricted to 100/200-level courses?
  - Should the S/U option be restricted to non-major courses?
  - Can units decide which of their courses can be taken as S/U?
  - What letter grade equivalents should be used?
    - Should "S" be equivalent to "C-" or higher, leaving "U" as "D+" or below? OR
    - Should current S/U definitions remain?
      - "S+" = "C-" or higher
      - "S" = "D+", "D", "D-"
      - "U" = "F"
  - Levin charged UGC to provide specific recommendations regarding the questions discussed.

- **Grade Submission policy**
  - o Couch presented revised language to the grade submission policy of the UG and GR catalogs.
    - § The changes specify the need for grades to be submitted within three working days of the end of a course, regardless of the part of term.
    - § Delays in the reporting of grades impact aid payments to students.

DISCUSSION:
  - o Examine language in Board Policy regarding teaching obligations and make corresponding updates if needed.
  - o Members suggested minor edits for clarity.

MOTION: Levin – It is moved to approve the revised grade submission policy with the amendments discussed and send it to Codification.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

New Business
- **Degree Conferral**
  - o Couch presented language to articulate the current operational practice of the timing of when degrees are awarded.
    - § The language specifies that degree conferral occurs three times each year, after the conclusion of the Fall, Spring, and Summer terms.
    - § The policy applies to both UG and GR levels.

DISCUSSION:
  - o Members suggested edits for clarity.
  - o Couch will incorporate suggestions and bring a revised draft to APC.

- **Retroactive Degree Conferral**
  - o Couch presented policy language to address situations when students seek to have a degree conferred retroactively.
    - § This type of situation arises when students do not apply for graduation in the respective term in which they complete their degree requirements.
    - § Under this policy, students would submit a Retroactive Degree Request form to verify all requirements are met.
    - § If the request is approved, the degree will be posted in the term the final program requirements were met.
      - • The entry will be annotated to reflect the date when the retroactive degree completion was entered on the academic record.

DISCUSSION:
  - o Note that the "current" graduation application fee will be assessed to the student's account, rather than a specific amount.
  - o Remove references to specific, current position titles in the policy; use more generic language instead (maybe "Office of the Provost").
  - o Couch will incorporate suggestions and bring a revised draft to APC.

- **CORE Initiative**

- o Matchett presented information regarding the State's CORE Initiative, which allows four-year institutions to award (but not deliver) associates degrees.
  - ▪ The program is targeting students who have earned at least 70 credit hours (with at least 15 credits from the awarding institution) and have completed (at least some) general education requirements.
  - ▪ Participation in the initiative is optional but strongly encouraged at the State level.
  - ▪ If UNC participates, the State will generate/provide a list of eligible students to us.
  - ▪ The State will submit and pay for the application to HLC on behalf of the participating four-year institutions for approval to award associates degrees.
- o Decisions we need to make:
  - ▪ Does the faculty support participation in this program?
  - ▪ If so, what degrees will UNC offer through the initiative?
    - • AGS and AA/AS degrees are options; requirements vary depending on degree type.

DISCUSSION:
- o Four-year institutions would not be allowed to require students to take any additional credits to earn associates degrees.
- o Levin charged UGC to review the proposal and provide their recommendation about awarding specific degree types.

- **4-day class schedule**

Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment
   The meeting was adjourned at 3:53pm.

Oscar Levin   Betsy Kienitz
Chair   Recording Secretary