

## ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, February 27, 2023  
2:30p.m. | UC Council Room  
Minutes

**Present:** Allen, Benedict, Cieminski, Couch, Levin, Mahovsky, Matchett, Parker, Senbet, Wieben

**Present via Zoom:** Welsh

**Guests:**

**Absent:** Leonard, Darschewski, Muller

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:32pm.

### Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

### Approval of the February 13 2023 meeting minutes

Approved without objection.

Announcements/Chair's Report (Levin): We have three catalog items going to Faculty Senate today.

### Reports from Councils:

Graduate Council (Cieminski): Arte Libunao from UNC's Extended Campus Team attended our meeting last week to answer questions. We are continuing work on how we can support graduate students.

Liberal Arts Council (Matchett): UNC Assessment Council's Chad Bebee is discussing learning outcomes and the assessment process today at Faculty Senate. Self-Nominations for Summerbridge are now open thru March 20<sup>th</sup> 2023. Academic Unit Leads with courses in LAC should be thinking about identifying professors who may be interested in offering a Summerbridge course.

Professional Education Council (Mahovsky): We met last Thursday and discussed the need for curriculum deadlines to align better with curriculum changes deadline. We created a subcommittee to develop an improved curriculum deadline timeline.

Undergraduate Council (Welsh): We worked on recommended policy language for using the Canvas Shell which will be reviewed by APC today.

Student Senate (Darschewski): Absent.

Special Reports: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

## New Business

- Discuss Distinction between a department and a school and redefine a unit leader.
  - Schools are led by Directors and Departments/free-standing programs are led by Chairs who are also voting faculty.
  - Policy passed last year allowed unit leaders of schools to be called chairs (and maintain voting faculty rights) provided they are not on full-time administrative reassignment.
  - President Feinstein requested clear definitions of a school, department and unit.
  - University Regulations' Part 11: Exempt Administration with Faculty Rank, section 3-3-1101 School Director Policy.
  - Some concern was expressed over losing flexibility since current definitions are somewhat vague.
  - What about people with multiple roles? Ginny Wong was mentioned as an example of someone who is currently an associate dean and director of UNC's School of Teacher Education.
  - Currently all schools are led by directors, program areas (definition currently includes multidisciplinary, single disciplinary, interdisciplinary) and departments are led by chairs.
  - Levin commented UNC Math Sciences is a good example of a multidisciplinary unit that functions as one program area.
  - Should a department and school be defined the same?
  - The committee reviewed University Regulations, Part 3: Academic Rank and Titles 3-3-301, Chair Selection and Evaluation: "A chair is the unit leader of a department or free-standing program, or the unit leader of a school whose faculty workload includes instruction and/or professional activity in addition to chair service."
  - Currently, UNC's free-standing programs have faculty on split appointments.
  - Identified a need to define paths to becoming a school program, department, etc.
  - Chair Levin to bring a definition of school and department that are basically identical, to the next APC meeting.
- Recommended Policy for Canvas Shell (UGC):
  - Welsh gave background on UNC's Fall 2020 student survey, which revealed major issues students experienced while using the Canvas Shell.
  - Welsh reviewed key points of Canvas Shell policy proposal. This policy will only be applied to scheduled courses.
  - Suggestion: "Learning Management System" be used instead of "Canvas Shell."
  - "Faculty actively using the gradebook" should be its own bullet point since it will be a requirement of faculty.
  - The intention is that this policy would be placed in the Board Policy under "teaching requirements."
  - Concern was expressed over encroaching on faculty's academic freedom and individual instructional styles.
  - Chair Levin requested Chair Welsh and he work on slimmed down version of recommended policy language for Learning Management System and bring back to APC.
- University Closure during Final's Week policy – Not discussed

Comments to the Good of the Order: None.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48pm.

Oscar Levin  
Chair

Nina Phillips  
Recording Secretary