

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, March 21, 2022
2:30p.m. | UC Council Room

MINUTES

Present: Couch, Franklin (Dineen), Matchett, Pullen (Han), Vaughan, Wieben

Absent: Benavidez, Benedict, Brewer, Kraver, Wood, Yu, Zaghlawan

Guests: Heiny, LaSota, Levin, Wesley

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

Approval of the February 28, 2022 meeting minutes

Approved without objection.

Announcements/Chair's Report

Reports from Councils:

Graduate Council (Brewer) – No Report.

Liberal Arts Council (Wood) – We are continuing work on indirect assessment and have approved a process for selecting the LAC offering for the Summer Bridge program.

Professional Education Council (Kraver) – No Report.

Undergraduate Council (Dineen) – Undergraduate student speakers for the commencement ceremonies have been selected. We discussed the move from emphases to concentrations in the catalog. UGC also approved the process for selecting the LAC offering for the Summer Bridge program. We are continuing to develop the S/U grading option proposal, including seeking feedback from Stephanie Torrez. We hope to bring the proposal to APC on 4/18.

Student Senate (Benavidez) – No Report.

Special Reports

- **Plagiarism definition added to UG catalog** (Registrar)
 - Couch notified the Committee that the definition of plagiarism has been restored to the UG catalog.
 - The definition was accidentally left out when the university catalogs split between UG and GR levels years ago.
 - The definition in the UG catalog matches the one in the GR catalog.

Unfinished Business

- **Permanent S/U Grading Policy**
 - UGC may have an initial policy proposal ready for APC on 4/18. Work will continue into the next academic year.
- **Enrollment Status/Intensive English Program**
 - Couch and CIE have made further revisions for APC to review at the next meeting.
- **Missed Classes/University-Sponsored Activities (BOAC) – on hold**

- **Senate bylaws, Article V – The Academic Policies Committee**

- The committee continued review of the bylaws, including the recommendations discussed at the last APC meeting and Codification’s latest recommendations.
- Members discussed how to clarify the references to “curriculum development” and “proposed new programs” in section C.
 - Functionally, APC does not have a role in developing/proposing curriculum or programs themselves.
 - Rather, APC’s role relates to the policies *about* curriculum development/proposed new programs.
- Amend section C. to read as follows:

C. The APC shall serve as a review committee for all matters that affect the academic operations of the University, such as the policies related to admission and graduation requirements, grading system, curriculum development, proposed new programs, academic standards and regulations, and the academic calendar.

MOTION: Vaughan – It is moved to accept the Codification recommendations and the amendment to section C.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

New Business

- **Grade Replacement policy for the graduate catalog**

- Wesley presented a grade replacement policy proposal for the GR catalog.
- Currently there is no grade replacement policy at the graduate level.
- The proposal is modeled after the version in the UG catalog, with some differences.
- Policy highlights:
 - Grade replacement can be applied to letter graded courses that are not repeatable for credit.
 - Grade replacement can only be applied once per course for a maximum of three (3) courses and no more than nine (9) credit hours.
 - Grade replacement can only be applied to courses with a grade of “C” or lower.
 - The higher letter grade attained for a repeated course will count toward the cumulative GPA.
 - The policy will not be applied retroactively; it applies only to Fall 2022 forward.
- Members discussed potential ramifications of the policy, including out-of-pocket costs to students retaking courses, delays to graduation, cohort timing, limited availability of some courses, limited numbers of seats in those course offerings, etc.
 - Advising will be crucial to help students make informed decisions about whether to use grade replacement.
- Committee members made the following recommendations:
 - Include 622/722s and 695/795s in the list of itemized courses excluded from the grade replacement policy.
 - Have the most recent letter grade count, rather than whichever attempt is the higher letter grade.
 - Raise the minimum eligible letter grade to “B-” instead of “C”.
 - This will be beneficial for students whose programs require a “B” or higher.
 - Clarify the opening sentence about financial aid eligibility.

MOTION: Vaughan – It is moved to approve the policy proposal with the revisions discussed and send the language to Codification.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

Comments to the Good of the Order

- Couch invited Financial Aid Director Marty Somero to the next APC meeting to provide context in the discussion of grade submission policy revisions. In particular, the issues of both early and late grade submissions need to be addressed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19pm.

Angela Vaughan
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary