

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, April 20, 2026
2:30 p.m. | UC Council Room

Present: Borum, Couch, Cieminski, Garrett, Gershwin, Han, Leatherman, Leonard, Mannello, Newman

Zoom: Heiny, Paytoe Gabyee, Trask

Absent: Chapin

Call to Order 2:31pm

Approval of the Agenda approved without objection

Approval of the April 6, 2026, meeting minutes approved without objection

Announcements/Chair's Report:

Reports from Councils:

Graduate Council (Cieminski) – Erin Taylor, will be the new Graduate Council chair and Keeley Hynes, will be the vice chair and APC representative. The council is refining committee roles for grad school representation and finishing up the policy regarding double number courses to bring to APC next year.\

Liberal Arts Council (Wood) – Liberal Arts Council continues with Indirect Syllabus Review and Direct Assessments.

Professional Education Council (Paytoe Gbayee) – Payto Gbayee may be the chair next year. The goal for the next meeting is to move things forward on what membership looks like and internal regulations.

Undergraduate Council (Karlin) – Undergraduate Council approved an inner disciplinary degree and continued to work on the work-to-learn framework.

Student Government Association (Baxter) – No report

Special Order:

- **2026-27 Academic Policies Committee Officer Nominations**
 - Chair
 - Gershwin nominates Mannello – accepted
 - Sara Mannello elected by acclamation
 - Vice – Chair
 - Gershwin self-nominates
 - Tracy Gershwin elected my acclamation

Continued Business:

1. **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force Policy Recommendations ([AI Policies](#) folder):**

- (a) [AI syllabus policy](#) voted down by the senate (3/23/26)
- (b) **Next Steps:** Proposed [APC resolution](#) to present to the Senate, Fall 2026.
- a. Gershwin added additional points she felt were important to include.
 - b. Leatherman expressed concern about the overall length but was unsure what content should be removed.
 - i. It was noted that a shorter document is more likely to be read.
 - c. The committee agreed to revisit the document in the fall before forwarding it to Senate.
 - i. Revisions may focus on shortening the content.

New Business:

1. Office of the Registrar: Dr. Charlie Couch

New Policy: [Internship Definition and the Awarding of Academic Credit](#)

Date Requested: 4/15/26

Placement(s): Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs

Purpose: There is currently no university-wide definition of what an internship is and how academic credit is awarded.

- This item will be brought to Faculty Senate next fall.
- Couch shared that the registrar's office receives student requests to receive academic credit for internships completed in prior terms (often several years earlier), which are typically denied at both undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Mannello expressed appreciation for the discussion, noting that she frequently encounters these situations and currently lacks clear guidance for advising students.
- Leatherman shared her experience, mentioning that some student's complete internships during winter or summer but are registered for the credit in a different semester either the fall or spring.
- Couch noted that when a student is registered for an experience, it creates the assumption, particularly for funding and reporting purposes, that the work is being completed during that registered term.
 - He referenced federal guidelines, noting there may be an exception clause that could apply in certain cases.
- Financial aid distribution will depend on when the majority of the internship experience occurs.
- Cieminski expressed interest in hearing how other units handle similar situations and how such a policy might apply within her unit.
- Couch shared that, in some cases, students may be disadvantaged or treated unfairly under current practices.
- Gershwin emphasized the importance of transparency and clear communication in any policy or guidance developed.
- Next steps include; committee members will consult with colleagues in their respective units to gather input and examples.
 - Couch can provide additional context regarding federal guidelines.

2. Graduate School/Council: Dr. Cindy Wesley

Revised Policy: [Transfer of Graduate Credit Policy](#)

Placement: Graduate Catalog

Purpose: See attached document

- Cieminski acknowledged the proposal is unlikely to move forward as-is but emphasized the broader goal of removing barriers to degree and certification completion.
 - She noted that double counting is currently not allowed in master's and doctoral programs and that students should not be taking unnecessary or filler courses simply to meet credit load requirements.
- The policy should maintain the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) threshold and align with previously proposed policies.
- Han stated that dissertation courses should be completed at the home institution and asked when transferred or prior credits should stop counting.
- Leatherman clarified that the discussion is limited to U.S.-based considerations.
- Couch suggested including a link to the accreditation page, based on experience from the registrar's office.
- Mannello asked for clarification on the phrase "omission of special topics credit."
 - Cieminski noted this may not be the appropriate terminology.
 - Mannello pointed out that language could unintentionally prevent students from transferring those credits.
- Leatherman questioned whether coursework could be completed elsewhere with only the dissertation completed at the home institution.
 - She shared the concern that faculty currently have limited authority and advocate for language that allows faculty to determine what counts toward the degree.
 - It was noted that program coordinators currently hold decision-making authority.
- Gershwin commented that the proposal helps clarify policies around specialist degrees.
- Replace "reviewing" with "approving" to address Leatherman's concern about faculty authority.
- The committee agreed to revisit the policy in the fall with implementation occurring after Fall 2027.
- It was noted that if a student disagrees with a decision, an appeal process would be available.
 - The committee may want to consider adding an exception clause.

New Business (on Hold):

- [University of Northern Colorado Assistant Policy](#) (Dr. Keith Humphrey, VP Student Affairs)
- **Next Steps:** More legal review required, Dr. Keith Humphrey will reconnect with APC 2026-27

Old Business on Hold:

1. S/U Grading Policy Proposed Modifications.

- MOST RECENT: Revised document [S_U Grading \(CLEAN 2_2026\).docx](#)
- [S_U Grading \(OLD Version\).docx](#)
- [S_U Grading \(MARKED REVISIONS 2_26\).docx](#)
- **Next Steps:** APC will re-present the [revised S_U Grading policy](#) to the Senate 2026-27.
 - Gershwin received feedback from Levin
 - Registrar needed clarification on “may” units vs “must” units.
 - There were concerns that the policy might get confusing in the future.
 - The addition of prerequisites will need further discussion

2. Graduate Council/Graduate School:

- [Grad Proposal Cross Numbered - Newman.pdf](#)
- **Next Steps:** Waiting for more information from the Graduate School

Comments to the Good of the Order

Thank you for leading us, Tracy!

Adjournment 3:48pm

Tracy Gershwin, APC Chair