

## ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 21, 2025  
2:30p.m. | UC Council Room

### *Minutes*

Present: Cieminski, Couch, Kyle, Larson, Leonard, Matchett, Newman

Zoom: Allen, Benedict, Gershwin, Leatherman, Paytoe Gbayee

Absent: Bermudez, de la Torre, Muller

Call to Order 2:30pm

Approval of the Agenda approved without objections

Approval of the December 9, 2024, meeting minutes approved without objection

Announcements/Chair's Report (Newman) – No report. The student academic success committee will give a presentation about academic probation policy.

### Reports from Councils

Graduate Council (Cieminski) – Graduate council has not met yet. Cieminski spoke with associate deans about compressed credits and reiterated concerns that have been addressed already. They are working on approving compressed credits, which the Graduate Council will discuss at Thursday's meeting.

Liberal Arts Council (Muller) – No report

Professional Education Council (Paytoe Gbayee) – Paytoe Gbayee and the vice chair met and moved curriculum through. There are some curriculum on hold and waiting for them to be unlocked.

Undergraduate Council (Larson) – The Undergraduate Council met last week and discussed the implementation of a narrative comment box in the grading system, where comments can be viewed by students. The committee plans to continue the discussion with their respective units. The committee is working with Nancy Matchett with the Schulze Chair Evaluation. The committee spent time discussing experiential components of a degree and some members are involved in the process of selecting the commencement speaker.

Student Government Association (Bermudez) – No report

### Special Reports

### Special Order

### Unfinished Business

- **Four-Day Final Exam schedule** ([folder with documents](#))
  - [Proposed Final Exam Rotation](#)
  - [Data on Final Exam Distributions with New Rotation](#)
  - Benedict will reach out to stakeholders
    - Disability Resource Center, Housing, Facilities, and Provost office,
  - Will there be any suggestion to leaving that “make up day” as an option
  - It must be made clear that Friday is still part of Finals week

- The four-day schedule won't affect move-out deadlines, there may be a decrease in students eating in dining halls, food will need to be available despite the possible decrease.
- The committee approves moving forward in the next stages.
- **Curriculum Standards Recommendations** ([folder with documents](#))
  - [Drafted new language for the catalog](#)
  - The Provost's Office needs a standard definition of what constitutes a concentration.
    - Concentration generally applies to upper-division coursework and may have marketing value for recruitment.
  - A recommendation was made to set the standard for 12 credits.
    - Currently, the lowest is at 9 credits, highest at 24 credits, and average of 18 credits.
  - Should there be a unique minimum credit requirement for concentrations?
    - What distinguishes a program as significant enough to warrant a separate listing in the catalog?
    - Clarifying these standards will help ensure consistency across the institution.
  - Courses designated for specific concentrations should be clearly defined for students in those tracks.
    - At least 12 credits should be differentiated rather than requiring entirely unique courses.
    - A concentration should consist of 12 specific credits leading to a unique specialization.
  - The university needs a systematic approach to defining concentrations
    - Establishing a clear vision for concentration and determining where and how they should be implemented.
  - A well-defined template would help faculty structure concentrations more effectively.
  - In the case of a biology degree, Larson is under the impression that there are specific courses all biology students must take.
    - Benedict explains that those courses make up more than half of their coursework. Which is then followed by their concentration-specific courses to complete their degree.
  - The sentence "Concentrations require at least ?? semester credit hours." Will be removed.
    - Defining concentrations and developing a template will be helpful.
  - Newman will reach out to academic units to determine whether they prefer offering a concentration option, or absorbing concentrations into the program.
  - Newman will draft a communication template and initiate discussions with the Art Department and draft a section addressing certificate requirements.
    - It was noted that if implementing concentrations requires curriculum reorganization, there may be pushback and if only restructuring is needed (without changing degree requirements), a curriculum submission may not be necessary.

- **NHS proposal for Undergraduate Grader** ([folder with documents](#))
  - [NHS proposal for Undergraduate Grader](#)
  - Newman has been working on the process, but the language will need to be reviewed.
    - The location for housing this information still needs to be determined.
  - Has this version been reviewed by Kim Black?
    - Matchett will run this by Kim before the next meeting.
  - IDD and schedulers recommend having one, rather than having separate ones for student grader and others.
  - Anonymized grading will be set as the default but can be adjusted as needed.
  - APC will provide feedback at the next meeting.
- **Residency requirement for certificates**

#### Low Priority New Business

- **General Education Foundation Skills Credential (i.e., LAC “badge”)**
  - [CDHE recommendation](#)
- **Graduate School AI policy**
  - [Current Posted AI Policy](#)
    - Cieminski will ask if Cindy wants to attend a meeting.

#### Unfinished Business on hold

- **Graduate Student Full-time vs. Part-time Status**
- **Academic Calendar: Fall Break**
  - [Comparison of CO Universities terms](#)
- **University Libraries Unit Organization**
  - [UL Proposed Organization](#)

#### Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment 3:42pm

Harmony Newman  
Chair