

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 19, 2021
2:30p.m. Remote Meeting - Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Castro, Couch, Dineen, Greene, Matchett, Murry, Pullen, Toewe, Vaughan, Wood

Absent: Cardona, Dunemn, Fulks, McMullen

Guest: Heiny

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order 2:33pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

Approval of the November 9, 2020 meeting minutes

Approved without objection.

Chair's report (Toewe)

- A Land Acknowledgement statement is now included with CETL's recommended syllabus statements: https://www.unco.edu/center-enhancement-teaching-learning/syllabus_statements.aspx

Reports from Councils:

Graduate Council (Dunemn) – No Report.

Liberal Arts Council (Wood) – LAC reviewed 29 courses last semester. Our goals this Spring include developing an assessment plan and revising council bylaws.

Professional Education Council (McMullen) – No Report.

Undergraduate Council (Dineen) – UGC met recently and discussed the items in new business: withdrawal dates, S/U grading, and exam proctoring.

Student Senate (Castro) – No Report.

Unfinished Business

New Business

- **Name in Use** - information item
 - The committee reviewed the final version, which will also be presented at Faculty Senate today.
 - The final version incorporated changes to the Name Change section for greater inclusivity, especially as it relates to undocumented students and international students.
- **Withdrawal dates**
 - Couch presented a proposal to change withdrawal deadlines to align the individual and complete schedule withdrawal dates.
 - Current withdrawal dates at UNC are staggered:
 - individual course withdrawal deadline is ~50% of the term
 - complete schedule withdrawal deadline is ~80% of the term
 - There is no clear rationale or benefit to having staggered withdrawal dates.

- Aligning the withdrawal deadlines and pushing the date later into the semester will likely have a positive impact on student success and retention.
 - Faculty have pointed out that 50% of the term is for many classes too soon to expect students to have received significant feedback on their performance.
 - The Integrated Network Council (INC) also submitted their feedback in support of aligning the individual/complete withdrawal dates and establishing a deadline later in the semester.
 - There is no financial impact associated with changing the withdrawal deadline; as no refunds are issued after the drop deadline, Financial Aid and the Bursar's Office will not be affected.
 - Dineen commented that UGC is supportive of the idea to move the withdrawal deadline to 95% of the semester, as suggested in the Registrar's Office proposal.
 - The goal would be to start the new withdrawal practice in Fall 2021.
 - A policy needs to be written up before APC makes a recommendation to Senate.
- **S/U grading**
 - Couch presented information on S/U grading, including examples of other schools' policies and issues to consider as UNC contemplates establishing a permanent policy around S/U grading.
 - Apart from the options approved for Spring and Fall 2020, UNC's grading options are by course; only designated courses are eligible for S/U grading.
 - In developing a permanent policy, perspectives from across campus need to be included to ensure the impacts of the policy are fully understood.
 - Considerations include:
 - Timing/deadline for S/U selection: where to establish the cut-off for S/U selection
 - Conditions of eligibility for S/U selection: whether/how to limit the types of classes (major/minor, LAC, licensure, etc.); potential restrictions by student type and/or GPA; whether to limit the total number of credits eligible; etc.

DISCUSSION:

- Concerns about students selecting S/U when it's not in their benefit, problems of transferability, considerations for pursuing graduate degrees, etc.
 - The S/U options of 2020 resulted in fewer students being placed on academic probation, but that might mean students who otherwise need academic support have not been identified.
 - Question of whether a permanent policy is even needed, whether faculty generally think a policy should be established.
 - Ask your colleagues what they think of establishing an S/U grading option permanently, what concerns/issues they have.
 - Academic Affairs is putting together data to illustrate how students utilized the S/U option.
 - Toewe will ask CETL about gathering information on how other schools handle S/U grading and what data is available about impacts on grade inflation, student success, etc.
- **Exam Proctoring**
 - Matchett presented an initial Academic Affairs draft online proctoring policy.
 - Although the issue impacts academics, it's primarily a resource/budget issue.
 - Online proctoring is expensive, and the cost of centrally supported proctoring would require reallocation of funds from other university functions.

- Additionally, the trend in academic literature is moving away from online proctoring toward authentic assessment.
- UNC needs to have a policy in place by new academic year.
 - The current contract ends June 30, 2021.
- Academic Affairs is asking for feedback from various campus stakeholders in order to make an informed decision.
 - UGC and GC are examining the issue, and the intention is to bring a newer/clearer draft to APC.
 - Issues raised by Biology and others are being taken into consideration.

DISCUSSION:

- Concerns about impacts on student success/not wanting to pass costs on to students, class sizes, faculty workload, etc.

Other New Business

- Toewe asked for suggestions to help a doctoral student from UCCS who is looking for faculty who have experience working with PLA in Colorado.
 - Toewe will forward the request to Couch, as the Registrar's Office manages PLA transfer processes.

Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47pm.

Anne Toewe
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary