

## ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, February 15, 2021  
2:30p.m. Remote Meeting - Zoom

### MINUTES

**Present:** Castro, Couch, Dineen, Dunemn, Fulks, Greene, Matchett, McMullen, Murry, Pullen, Toewe, Vaughan, Wood

**Absent:** Cardona

**Guests:** Croissant, Heiny, LaSota, Law, Levin, Torrez

#### Call to Order

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

#### Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

#### Approval of the February 1, 2021 meeting minutes

Approved with minor corrections.

#### Chair's report (Toewe)

- Welcome to Torrez, Law, and Croissant who are here to aid in discussion of S/U options.

#### Reports from Councils:

Graduate Council (Dunemn) – GC's next meeting is 2/18; the Provost and the Director of Extended Campus will be in attendance.

Liberal Arts Council (Wood) – We reviewed student appeals and had continued conversation around assessment planning and LAC bylaws revision.

Professional Education Council (McMullen) – No Report.

Undergraduate Council (Dineen) – The application for undergraduate commencement student speaker is open; encourage graduating seniors to apply. Multiple speakers will be needed, as we recently learned there will be four ceremonies this Spring.

Student Senate (Castro) – We are planning a townhall for early March.

#### Unfinished Business

- **Withdrawal dates**

- Couch identified a fixed date/time for full semester courses: the Friday before final exams.
  - The fixed point is the basis by which to calculate the withdrawal deadlines for special/short courses.
- If approved, the language would go into effect for the 21/22 catalog.

MOTION: Toewe – It is moved to approve the revised policy and forward it to Codification for review.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

- **S/U grading**

- In addition to considering a permanent S/U grading option for future terms, our guests from the advising team are curious about whether there are plans to implement for the current term an S/U grading option like what was approved for Fall 2020.
  - Students are wondering whether an S/U option will be implemented for Spring 2021.

- The individual course withdrawal deadline is approaching quickly (3/8), and students' decisions on whether to stay in a course or withdraw may hinge on whether an S/U option will be available.
- The advising staff asked that, whatever the decision, any change be made swiftly and communicated clearly, so that advisors can help students make informed choices.
  - Is there no intention of implementing an S/U option, or if there is, what conditions would warrant implementation of an S/U option?
- The committee discussed the pros/cons of implementing an S/U option for Spring 2021.
  - Differences between the sudden/unforeseen changes in conditions in Spring 2020 and the rationale for approving similar measures for Fall 2020
  - Rationale for Fall 2020 relating to continued stress/difficulties associated with the pandemic, as well as the rise in cases in Fall tipping the perspective in favor of implementation of the S/U option
  - What would be the rationale for Spring 2021?
    - Bumpy start for novice students in AY 20/21
    - Continued stress/difficulties associated with the pandemic
    - No significant difference in conditions between F20 and S21
  - Extending the withdrawal deadline would ease the pressure on students' decisions to remain in courses.
  - What advantages/risks would there be in implementing an S/U option in addition to implementing a withdrawal deadline extension?
    - Limit impacts on GPA
    - Risk of students selecting S/U in disadvantageous situations: major, licensure, etc.
    - Importance of advising in helping students understand implications
- Toewe will bring the issue for discussion at Faculty Senate today.
- Thoughts on a permanent S/U grading policy:
  - UGC is largely supportive of establishing a permanent policy and recognizes the parameters/limitations of such a policy must be set carefully.
  - In establishing a permanent policy, perhaps a clause should be included for what happens in emergency situations.
  - Possibly an advisor's signature should be required in the application process to ensure students are aware of the impacts of S/U selection.
  - Consider whether the S+/S/U scale would need to be kept for the differentiation of grades equivalent to C- or higher.
  - How/where to draw the line at what courses are eligible, whether there should be limits on the number of credits selected for S/U, and the deadline for S/U selection
    - Some majors will need to specify that S/U grades are not permitted due to licensure or other concerns.
    - Employers, professional schools, and other entities may require letter grades.
    - Setting the deadline earlier in the semester would ease advising and keep students from choosing S/U simply to avoid a bad grade.
  - Examine other Colorado institutions' permanent policies.
  - S/U can be used as a tool of exploration beyond program requirements, removing the barrier of risk to GPA.
  - Consider positive impacts to retention/persistence by having an S/U option.

- **Exam Proctoring**

- No updates at this time.

- **Mutually Exclusive Courses**

- Couch presented a revised draft that he and Matchett created after the last APC meeting.

MOTION: Toewe - It is moved to approve the revised policy and forward it to Codification for review.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

New Business

Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52pm.

Anne Toewe  
Chair

Betsy Kienitz  
Recording Secretary