

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, October 26, 2020
2:30p.m. Remote Meeting - Zoom

MINUTES

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

Absent: Cardona, Castro

Guests: Freeman, Heiny, Torrez

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:31pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

Approval of the October 12, 2020 meeting minutes

Approved without objection.

Chair's report (Toewe)

- Chris Freeman and Stephanie Torrez are here to aid in discussion of the Fresh Start policy revisions.
- We also need to consider how to handle the Name in Use updates brought forward from UGC.

Reports from Councils:

Graduate Council (Dunemn) – Our next meeting is Thursday.

Liberal Arts Council (Wood) – Course review is in full swing. We are in the initial stages of assessment planning. Revisions to the LAC portion of Board Policy are going to Senate today.

Professional Education Council (McMullen) – We have reviewed several curriculum items and are following up as needed with teacher prep programs regarding PEC requirements. We may add another December meeting to compensate for the influx of program updates anticipated.

Undergraduate Council (Dineen) – UGC has reviewed both items under new business: we approved the Fresh Start updates and discussed the changes to the Name in Use catalog language.

Student Senate (Castro) – No Report

Unfinished Business

- **Summer Enrollment Proposal from Athletics** – *on hold*

New Business

- **Fresh Start for Returning Students – catalog update**
 - Freeman provided background information and data on Fresh Start and presented changes to the Returning Students portion of the policy.
 - Main change: Reduce the number of years required to qualify for the Fresh Start for Returning Students program from 5 years to 3 years.
 - Under the current policy, students must have grades of “C-“ or lower that are at least five years old based on their most recently completed semester at UNC.
 - Only absence is required to qualify; there are no additional criteria.

- Reducing the number of years from five to three will widen recruitment of former students who are eager to return and finish their degree.
- Without this change, students who might otherwise return to UNC are more likely to pursue their degrees elsewhere.

DISCUSSION:

- Previously earned grades of “C-“ and lower (below the 2.0 threshold) are removed from GPA calculation, which pulls students off academic probation or suspension.
 - Fresh Start applies to all previously earned grades of “C-“ or lower; students may not choose which grades to keep or drop.
 - The letter grades themselves remain on the transcript with a note indicating that Fresh Start has been applied.
 - Grades of “C” and better continue to factor into GPA.

MOTION: Toewe – It is moved approve the changes as discussed and send to Codification before moving the policy forward to Faculty Senate.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

- **Name in Use – catalog update**

- Tobias Guzman and Stephen Loveless worked with the Registrar’s Office to revise the Name Change sections of the UG and GR catalogs, changing “Preferred Name” to “Name in Use” and adding sections for Pronoun in Use and Special Characters in Name Usage.
- UGC reviewed the proposal as an information item and decided to follow up with APC and Faculty Senate.
- During the UGC meeting, AVP of Student Affairs Tucker recommended changes on behalf of the Dean of Students to centralize reporting to DOS so that students report to one office instead of multiple offices.
- APC needs to decide if the proposal ought to be dealt through the regular Senate approval process or submitted as an information item.

DISCUSSION:

- As the proposal involves non-academic policy language, the procedure for review is unclear. The policy falls under the purview of Students Affairs, not Academic Affairs.
- The committee agrees that this type of policy update should be shared with Faculty Senate as an information item to boost faculty awareness of the policy change.
- Matchett identified a typo in the Pronoun in Use paragraph: the possessive on “individual” should be removed.
- The committee agrees that Codification should review the policy.

MOTION: Toewe – It is moved to forward the Name in Use updates to Codification for review and then submit to Faculty Senate as an information item.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18pm.

Anne Toewe
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary