

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, October 25, 2021
2:30p.m. | UC Council Room

MINUTES

Present: Benedict, Brewer, Couch (Beyers), Franklin (Dineen), Kraver, Matchett, Pullen, Schaberl, Vaughan, Wieben, Wood, Yu, Zaghawan

Absent: Benavidez

Guests: Hulsey, Levin, Wesley

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

Approval of the October 11, 2021 meeting minutes

Approved without objection.

Announcements

Chair's report (Vaughan)

- We are working on review of the Registrar's Office website.

Reports from Councils:

Graduate Council (Brewer) – No Report.

Liberal Arts Council (Wood) – The Council approved a policy recommendation to allow the Registrar's Office to 'grandfather' completion of the IS/MS requirements for students who move forward to a new catalog year and had completed LAC Areas 7/8 with courses that were not carried over to the new IS/MS designations.

Professional Education Council (Kraver) – No Report.

Undergraduate Council (Dineen) – We are working through considerations for a permanent S/U grading option and looking at expectations for Canvas use. We will also be reviewing applications for the Schulze Chair and making a recommendation to the AVP of Undergraduate Studies.

Student Senate (Benavidez) – No Report.

Unfinished Business

- **Permanent S/U Grading Policy** – *no updates*

- **Grade Point Average**

- **Posthumous Degrees**

- The committee reviewed recommendations from Codification regarding the catalog updates for GPA and Posthumous Degrees.

MOTION: Benedict – It is moved to accept the changes as presented and send to Faculty Senate for review today.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

New Business

- **Leave of Absence**

- Cindy Wesley presented a draft Leave of Absence (LOA) policy for the Graduate Catalog.
 - LOA is a temporary pause of graduate study that stops a student's term clock.
 - LOA may be granted for one semester, with the option for renewal for an additional semester.
 - LOA requires the student to confer with their advisor regarding impacts of their leave and plans for their return.
 - LOA serves a different purpose than the existing Continuous Registration (CR) policy.
 - CR is meant for students who have completed required credits but need to stay active until they can complete their final requirements (such as defend their dissertation).
 - CR does not stop a student's term clock.
 - CR has a \$150 fee for each semester.
 - Students are eligible for up to three semesters of CR.
 - LOA would keep students who need to step away from graduate studies from using CR for non-intended purposes and using up their clock time.
 - Students using LOA would be reported as non-enrolled for Financial Aid purposes; however, students would be able to apply for forbearance/deferral based on their LOA status.

DISCUSSION:

- Timing of request: Align the LOA form deadline with the semester withdrawal deadline (last day of full-semester classes).
 - Although it's preferable to initiate the LOA form as early as possible, some students may not know they need to use LOA until later in the semester.
 - LOA will not be granted retroactively after the end of a semester.
- International students must contact CIE regarding potential impacts of LOA on their legal status.
- LOA does not cancel current course registration; students must contact the Registrar's Office to drop/withdraw from any registered courses.
 - Consider how LOA may interact with registration/tuition appeal procedures.
- Impacts on programs: Students must discuss with their advisor how LOA will impact the student's ability to complete the program.
 - For example, students in cohort-driven programs may not be able to continue with their cohort schedules.
 - It may be helpful to list possible ramifications/impacts to reinstatement.
 - A registration hold will stop students from registering for courses until reinstatement is approved.
- Consider creating a guidance document for advisors/students to help them navigate choices and determine what options are best for students in particular circumstances (e.g., when is it better to take incompletes, withdraw, use CR, or take LOA).
- Rather than allowing for one semester of LOA with an option for renewal for an additional semester, consider writing the policy instead for up to x-number of semesters.
 - Semesters of LOA could be, but are not necessarily, back-to-back. Students may need one semester of LOA for one circumstance and need another LOA in a different year.
- Wesley will incorporate the committee's feedback and return to APC.

Comments to the Good of the Order

- The Colorado vaccination bus is here on campus; walk-ups are welcome.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm.

Angela Vaughan
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary