

## ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, November 8, 2021  
2:30p.m. | UC Council Room

### MINUTES

**Present:** Benedict, Brewer, Couch, Kraver, Pullen, Schaberl, Vaughan, Wieben, Yu

**Absent:** Benavidez, Franklin, Matchett, Wood, Zaghlawan

**Guests:** Wesley

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:33pm.

#### Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

#### Approval of the October 25, 2021 meeting minutes

Approved without objection.

#### Announcements

#### Chair's report (Vaughan)

- Vaughan and Matchett talked about a couple items to discuss at APC in the future: university syllabus requirements and the Student Bear Code and its relation to the Academic Appeals Procedure.

#### Reports from Councils:

Graduate Council (Brewer) – We approved a Grade Replacement policy for the graduate level to allow students to retake a course and have the higher grade calculated in their GPA. We added a time limit for graduate certificates, similar to limits in place for other program types.

Liberal Arts Council (Wood) – We approved two new courses for inclusion in the LAC: ENG 207 and HIST 250.

Professional Education Council (Kraver) – The current student teaching supervision mileage policy caps reimbursement to a 50-mile roundtrip maximum. This limit on travel and reimbursement is not adequate as many student teachers are placed in the Denver metro area or other areas more than 25 miles away. There are other observation options such as remote observation and/or contracting supervisors; however, it is best when student teachers are observed by the same people who trained them. We believe the mileage limit should be increased, but we are not sure where responsibility for the policy ultimately lies.

- Kraver will send the information to Vaughan who will take the issue to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for their recommendation on how to proceed.

Undergraduate Council (Dineen) – There is ongoing discussion of syllabus statements. We are also discussing recommendations for minimum expectations for Canvas use for faculty; Kathy Zellers and Kim Black will be attending the next UGC meeting to aid in that discussion. We made a recommendation to Nancy Matchett regarding selection of the Schulze Chair. The S/U grading subcommittee has compiled considerations for UGC to discuss; we may have an update for APC at the next meeting.

Student Senate (Benavidez) – No Report.

#### Unfinished Business

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

- **Leave of Absence**

- Wesley presented a revised LOA policy incorporating feedback from the last APC meeting.
- Based on best practices at other universities, the total time of all approved LOAs “may not exceed two (2) academic years.”
- Technical considerations:
  - Couch and Wesley will work out a procedure to ensure students on LOA won’t be deactivated, similar to what is already in place for students using Continuous Registration.
  - Couch will grant access for a Grad School staff member to place/remove registration holds in Banner.
- Add a sentence at the end of the second paragraph before the list of approvers: “Students will need signatures from appropriate individuals/offices relevant to their program:”
- Rewrite the “Cancelling registrations” paragraph for clarity/accuracy.
  - Break into two sections: *before* the drop deadline and *after* the drop deadline
  - Strike “retroactive” and “waiver” from the reference about tuition appeals and rewrite as follows: “You will need to file a tuition appeal to petition for elimination of tuition charges.”
  - Include a direct link to the Registrar’s Office published registration deadline information: <https://www.unco.edu/registrar/registration/add-drop-withdrawal.aspx>
- Fix typo in the LOA bullet of the Reinstatement after LOA section: change “approves” to “approved”.

MOTION: Pullen – It is moved to approve the Leave of Absence policy as amended and send it to Codification.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

### New Business

- **Posthumous Degrees**

- In light of the recent minor changes to the posthumous degrees catalog language, we will take a fuller look at the overall policy, which has existed in its current form since 2016.
- One question from the Provost was why family approval is needed to award the degree.
  - The request to award a posthumous degree may be initiated by the decedent’s family, major department/school/program area, or college, as well as by the Dean of Students.
  - Further in the policy, it is written such that family approval is needed to award the degree.

DISCUSSION:

- Can a posthumous degree be awarded without family permission/approval?
- In some situations, it may not be clear who is the “family” that should lend their approval, or there may not be a “family” there to support the awarding of a posthumous degree.
- Each situation is different and may involve varying levels of coordination with family members and/or other parties.
- The process could be made to be more automated, perhaps written to involve informing and coordinating with the family, rather than having them be an active part of the process.

- There is no time limit for awarding posthumous degrees; they can be initiated years after the student passed away.
- In 3-8-104(2)(b)(iii), correct reference to “(2) above” to “(b) above”
  - The “(2)” reflects the numbering format of the *catalog* language, not the *UR* language.
- The committee agreed that the policy should be written to remove obstacles and provide more flexibility around the degree awarding process.
- Couch will take the committee’s recommendations, coordinate with the DoS, and draft a revised policy for APC’s review.

Comments to the Good of the Order

- Faculty judges are needed for University 101 Research Nights next week; please email Angela Vaughan if you are interested in serving as a judge.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42pm.

Angela Vaughan  
Chair

Betsy Kienitz  
Recording Secretary