Education Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

5 October 2018

Members: Timothy Delaune, Holly Doty, Mary-Jo Morse, Chris Widdall, Tara Mahoney, Andrew Purrington, Eric Edlund, Abby Thomas, Regina Grantham

Members Absent: Carol Van Der Karr, Maaike Oldemans

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Comments/Discussion** | **Action** |
| **Approval of Minutes** | Accepted unanimously |  |
| **Request for Input on Disability Syllabus Language** | Jeremy Zhe-Heimerman has asked for our guidance on how to proceed with his office’s proposed changes to the standard Disability Statement language currently recommended for inclusion in course syllabi by the Handbook. | **Widdall will ask Zhe-Heimerman to send along proposed wording, and come to a meeting of the EPC to present for discussion and review.** |
| **Report on Faculty Senate’s Review of Proposed Academic Forgiveness Policy** | Widdall reports much conversation on the topic at Senate. The overarching theme was a concern that this creates an advantage for students who leave campus and come back, creating a perverse incentive for students who are struggling to leave campus for an extended period in order to have grades forgiven upon return. Senate may choose to vote the proposed policy up or down, or could ask us to submit language for current students before voting on it. Thomas reports that in her review only three other campuses whose policies were reviewed have forgiveness policies in place for current students (SUNY Fredonia, Ulster Community College, and TC3). Further general discussion of possible parameters of a current-student forgiveness policy, as well as the impacts of and justifications for such a policy. Further discussion ensued regarding the comments of faculty member Borden from the English department. | **Widdall will encourage Senate to vote on the proposed policy for students who have been away for a year or more while we begin considering a parallel policy for current students to be developed and sent out for vetting to the campus separately.**  **Widdall will encourage Borden to raise any further comments he has about the proposed policy at Senate.** |
| **Syllabus Requirements** | Discussion of recent changes to chapter 220.02, Responsibility of Faculty, which includes (ambiguously) suggested or required syllabus language. Senate’s recent modifications, including adding Title IX and Inclusivity language, appear to have altered the form of the chapter in ways that make it confusing or that do not appear to reflect Senate’s intent. General discussion of how to approach reorganizing the chapter so that it is comprehensible and clear, as well as how best to address effective dissemination of required syllabus information to students | **Purrington and Edlund will take a first crack at revisions, with the goal of presenting a draft two meetings hence.** |
| **Change to Policy on Credits toward Minor** | Discussion of developing a policy whereby a student might apply courses taken for a major (possibly outside the department offering the major, as in biology courses taken for a health major) toward a minor. The intent would **not** be to allow students who are acquiring a concentration within a major to also automatically obtain a minor in that concentration, where the concentration-granting courses are entirely within the department offering the major. That is, in the language of the handbook, we would be changing the rules around “added” concentrations, not “embedded” concentrations. | **Delaune will take first shot at revising the applicable catalog and handbook provisions and send to Doty for preliminary review.** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Adjourned** | 10:09 |  |
|  | Respectfully submitted by Timothy Delaune |  |