Education Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

19 April 2019

Members Present: Chris Widdall, Asha Goldberg, Eric Edlund, Maaike Oldemans, Tara Mahoney, Thom Hanford, Carol Van Der Karr, Abby Thomas, MaryJo Morse, Claire Bogart

Members Absent: Regina Grantham, Tim Delaune

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| **Topic** | **Comments/Discussion** | **Action** |
| **Approval of Minutes** | April 5 minutes approved | **Guest: Nancy Diller** |
| **Membership update** | * Jeff Walkuski was recently approved for membership
* Tara may be leaving to join the faculty affairs committee
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| **Disability Statement** | * One minor edit to the Disability statement
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| **Major and Program Standard GPA** | * GPA calculations will be discussed at the next Faculty Senate meeting.
* Thom and Carol worked with Chris to create a visual to explain the GPA calculations. Minor edits to the slides were made for the sake of clarity.
* New calculations will be integrated in Degree Works, an example calculation was provided by Thom in the visual.
* Comments from Thom: we will have a “major GPA block” and a “major GPA”. May need to make additional corrections to the definitions, he will look at this more closely. In Degreeworks 5.2 (perhaps coming in 2020) we maybe able to see the F’s instead of course grades being listed as “insufficient”.
* Comment from Chris: one faculty member reached out and asked to have a year to take care of this.
* Response from Thom: this is actually good because we would possibly have the new version of Degreeworks by then.
* Comments from Carol: Extra time is good to allow departments time to update websites and advising materials. Some departments have been using a subset of the major courses to determine graduation GPA requirements. Do departments have the latitude to decide which one to use for graduation?
* Response from Thom: Things would be greatly complicated if we allow departments to decide GPA requirements individually. Would be much simpler if have a single standard for the entire college.
* Comments from Abby: The major GPA block is where students often look for graduation status. Some students have passing GPA for a program standard GPA, but not in the major GPA block, or vice versa.
 | * Slides on proposed GPA calculation changes will be presented at the next Faculty Senate meeting.
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| **Removal of A+ and E to F grade change proposals** | **Discussion:*** Chris: There was widespread interest in removing the A+ from the grades since it was affecting many things: was used differently across campus, resulting in affecting things like scholarship distribution, etc. Took the E to F discussion to Faculty Senate Steering Committee. The E to F change was vetted separately. It would not change anything for a student’s GPA calculation. Recommendation from the FS Steering Committee was to rescind the E to F change and turn it over to FS for further consideration.

**Motion to send EPC suggestion in support of rescinding the E to F change*** Vote result: passed
 | * Send EPC document to Faculty Senate for consideration.
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| **Revisions to the syllabus requirements** | **Main comments from vetting*** A common theme concerned the meaning of the word “distributed”.
* Question about “sick time”.
* Concern about the description of “course owning department”.
* Concern that “course schedule” is ambiguous.
* Discussion of whether or not to leave WI designation. Consensus was that WI should be left.
* Discussion of whether to include Applied Learning (AL) designation. Consensus was that it is not absolutely necessary (not a requirement) but that it cannot hurt to do so -> implication being that it is left to the instructor’s discretion to make it so.

**Other feedback*** Steering Committee asked to remove the diversity statement because that pertains to the campus, not the classroom, whereas it is the Inclusive Learning Environment statement that pertains to the classroom.

**Discussion*** Modifications to academic integrity statement: simplified overall, changed “should” to “must”, removed quotation marks.
* Discussion of whether we should additional statements about other student support offices and systems on campus.

**Motion to send to Faculty Senate, seconded*** Vote result: passed
 | * Decide to clarify or make more specific, or leave it as-is.
* Should review contract and see what is required.
* Course-owning changed to “lead department”.
* Changed “course schedule” to “course meeting times”.
* Leave the diversity statement and let FS make the final decision on this.
* Send revised document to Faculty Senate.
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| **Other updates** |  none |  |
| **Adjourned** | 10 AM |  |
|  | Respectfully submitted by Eric Edlund |  |