Education Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE 6 April 2018

Members Present: Chris Widdall, Holly Doty, Timothy Delaune, Carol VanDerKarr, Jonah Schumacher, Tara Mahoney, Mary-Jo Morse, Laura Davies, Maaike Oldemans, Abby Thomas

Members Absent: Regina Grantham, Mary McGuire, Abby Thomas, Asha Goldberg

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| **Topic** | **Comments/Discussion** | **Action** |
| **Approval of Minutes** | Accepted unanimously. |  |
| **Old Business** | 1. Widdall and VanDerKarr reported on the Sandwich Seminar on the Program Standard GPA proposal. One thing that emerged from the meeting is that department practices vary so greatly that the campus will likely need more time to clear the way for this change to be readily acceptable and applicable across disciplines. There are significant complicating details, some of which have to do with how DegreeWorks is used (e.g. which courses among many that could qualify for a major populate the major GPA). In addition, some departments are using DegreeWorks for analytics, which is not really its intended function, so further discussion and education around its proper uses and the tools that should be used for other functions is needed. Suggestion made to create a “graduation major GPA” as another option for capturing GPA for particular courses.
2. Discussion of feedback on academic forgiveness proposal. Notably, no comments were made as to the length of time students must wait before pursuing forgiveness. One proposal was to use the Academic Standing Committee, consisting of the Associate Deans and various other groups that have a student behavior monitoring role, to issue decisions on forgiveness petitions. The Associate Deans provided feedback to the effect that this committee would not be appropriate to issue these decisions, as it deals primarily with reviewing academic suspension appeals, and exclusively with current rather than former students (although this second point wouldn’t be dispositive were the forgiveness policy expanded to include current students). In addition, the ASC meets only two to three times a year, and so couldn’t issue the necessary rolling decisions on forgiveness. Discussion as to whether to coordinate forgiveness and readmission applications/deadlines; general consensus that this would be appropriate as the two decisions would likely be closely coupled in most if not all cases. However, the two decisions are distinct, and the issue then becomes who, when the Associate Dean decides upon readmission, would decide upon forgiveness; faculty input indicates that there is a desire to have faculty involved in the forgiveness decision. We also need to be mindful of financial aid requirements and deadlines. Thomas and Doty noted that due to the heavy lift in implementing this change, it would appear first in the 2020-21 Catalog Term.
 | 1. Proposal made to survey campus to determine departmental and school practices regarding determination of major GPA or equivalent. VanDerKarr will contact administrators on other campuses to determine their practices in this regard. Further action on these changes tabled pending this further research and campus-wide discussion. Widdall and VanDerKarr will also consult Associate Deans.
2. Proposal to proceed with the forgiveness policy as drafted for returning students, noting that we are continuing to discuss and consider how to apply the policy to current students. Additional alterations the policy were approved as follows: a) include application deadlines (April, July, and November 15) and decision deadlines (April, July, and November 30 of each year) to be consistent with readmission application and decision deadlines and confirm that application deadlines for readmission and forgiveness are coterminous; b) allow readmitted students to apply for forgiveness after already having been admitted (pending review by financial aid via Doty to confirm that this does not conflict with that office’s policies or student access to aid); c) modify faculty participation on the committee from one faculty representative to one faculty representative from each school plus one at large; d) make Advisement and Transition and Registrar representative nonvoting ex-officio members of the decision committee. Widdall will respond to Sheets comments re using the ASC to make forgiveness decisions, and forward the current proposal to ASC for its comments and a final determination whether it wishes to be directly involved. Due to the deadline for submitting this for Senate approval being Monday, the committee decided to hold this proposal until fall for further revision and discussion in line with the above.
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| **New Business** | 1. None
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| **Adjourned** | 10:03 |  |
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|  | Respectfully submitted by: Timothy Delaune |  |
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