Education Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: 11/20/2020

Members Present: Members: Thomas Hanford, Maaike Oldemans, Abby Thomas, Carol Van Der Karr, Chris Widdall, Eric Edlund, Lindsey Darvin, Jeffrey Walkuski, Allyson Hasbrouck, Margaret Gichuru, Kristen Gielenfeldt, Jessica Liberty

Members Excused Absence: Laura Dunbar

Guests:Melissa Safford, Nancy Diller

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| **Topic** | **Comments/Discussion** | **Action** |
| **Approval of Minutes** | Review of minutes from November 6, 2020; approved |  |
| **Old Business****Review the AGP Proposal** | * Introduction of SGA students’ representatives Jessica Liberty and Kristen Gielenfeldt to provide students’ perspectives in the review of AGP proposal.
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| **Refresh the Purpose of EPC** | * Chair revisits the role of EPC in assisting the process of policy making. Emphasize EPC does not make policy but provides recommendations, does the vetting, and makes concessions on policy deliberations before moving to the faculty senate that make decisions and later to the Provost and President.
* Mention the members in the EPC meeting who can and those who cannot vote.
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| **New Business****Essential Worker Resolution: SUNY Cortland Control of COVID-19** | * Discussion of final submission of resolution document taken to the senate.
* Explanation of the resolution document that had agreeable content but with some factually incorrect and alarmist statements, for example, “…subjected to dangerous conditions.” Emphasize the importance of providing facts and to focus on legitimate concerns.
* Note that no transmission has been documented so far in the classrooms or office settings and this assertion can be confirmed later but complaints of student wearing masks improperly have been raised.
* Highlight students’ choices on how to take their classes and confirmed more classes will be online in the Spring 2021 semester.
* Discussion of the resolutions to be passed through faculty senate to allow more faculty engagement in dialogue
 | * **Chris to vote for the EPC in the senate meeting**
* **Confirmation of transmission of COVID-19 occurring in classrooms or offices**
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| **Review the AGP Proposal: Accountability Side by Side** | * Discussion of changes to AGT as a significant process that has been ongoing for the last two years.
* Maintain all processing times to be changed to 5 days to avoid undue stress for all involved in the process. The 5 days’ timeline to be consistent for both students and faculty.
* SGA representative notes that preference for a shorter period is to avoid deterrence of students filing a complaint when they are almost completing the program and to avoid negative outcomes for students.
* Discussion of the 5 days’ timeline is sufficient in allowing students to talk to advisor, be familiar with the process, and give Support Staff adequate time to do their work effectively.
* Highlight on fairness in the process of making penalty in relation to the problem and maintain integrity of the process.
* Discuss to have “Emended” than “decreased” for adjustment of penalties; reference to the Student Code of Conduct that states, “sanctions should only be reduced or increased if found to be grossly disproportionate to the gravity of the offence. Precedent for similar offences and/or the accused student’s prior disciplinary record.”
* Use similar wordings to maintain consistency with Student Code of Conduct document, maintain deadlines, and avoid arbitrary statements.
* Reference to 350.02 and 350.03 of Original Handbook Text Final Document that address consulting with chair of the department and 5 days’ timeline.
* The procedures require addressing the issue first with the instructor and then the chair of the department. Note that the chair may have a better understanding of the issues and students have the option for the next recourse if no resolution is met.
* Student representative raised concerns of going through the department chair that includes lack of documentation of meetings and fear of close relationship between the chair and the faculty member.
* Suggestion for students to consult with the Associate Dean as an option if hesitant to meet with the chair.
 | * **SGA representative to review the discussions about the timeline with SGA leadership for clarification before making conclusion about the proposed changes**
* **SGA to consult with a preferred faculty member**
* **Work on the wordings to maintain consistency**
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| **General Review of Minor/Concentration Vetting Comments** | * Discussion of programs offering minors to provide guidelines to students and produce program of change.
* Highlight rules that the students must take 50% of the courses from the minor and cannot have a minor from the concentration
 | * **Chris takes the review to the next faculty senate meeting for deliberations**
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| **Adjourned** | 11:00 am |  |
|  | Respectfully submitted by Margaret Gichuru  |  |