

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE
Monday, February 1, 2021
2:30p.m Remote Meeting Zoom
MINUTES

Present: Castro, Couch, Dineen, Dunemn, Greene, Matchett, McMullen, Murry, Toewe, Wood
Absent: Cardona, Fulks, Puller, Vaughan
Guests: Heiny, LaSota, Levin

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:32pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

Approval of the January 19, 2021 meeting minutes

Approved without objection.

Chair's report (Toewe)

Reports from Councils:

Graduate Council (Dunemn) – GC met 1/21, and discussion included changes to graduate faculty guidelines leave of absence for graduate students and workload concerns, especially concerning doctoral committees

DISCUSSION: Murry noted that Ed Leadership is having trouble with too few faculty members to handle the load Dunemn raised concerns about students having to wait

Liberal Arts Council (Wood) – LAC meets tomorrow.

Professional Education Council (McMullen) – PEC met last week. Communication is going out to the teacher prep program regarding revised mandates PEC is concerned about vaccine availability for student teaching supervisors who spend time in K12 schools as higher education faculty are not included in the same vaccine priority group as K12 educators.

DISCUSSION: Matchett noted that student teachers are being vaccinated at placement schools and thanked McMullen for bringing up the issue of faculty supervising student teachers needing access to the vaccine.

Undergraduate Council (Dineen) – UGC meets next Tuesday. We'll be discussing S/grading and the exam proctoring policy. The application for UG commencement student speaker is out now please encourage graduating seniors to apply.

Student Senate (Castro) No Report.

Unfinished Business

x Withdrawal dates

f Couch presented catalog language updates based off previous discussion.

f In aiming for the 95% of term for withdrawal dates, Registrar staff pointed out that such a percentage would put the date backward time mid-finals week.

f Additionally, for short compressed courses the 95% mark would be difficult to monitor and confusing for students.

f Couch asked the committee to consider a deadline that is easier to interpret

fThe committee discussed clearer ways to set the deadline, such as “Friday before final exam week”.

fShort course deadlines would need to be similarly defined, perhaps something like “last regular class meeting day”

fMembers mentioned the importance of including the course withdrawal deadline on syllabi and suggested adding clear messages about navigation to course withdrawal deadlines in Canvas and Ursa.

fAny new withdrawal schedule would be for the next academic year (starting Fall 2021).

fChanges cannot be made for the Summer 2021 term, as the calendar is already published and has been communicated to external agencies

fCouch will bring adjusted language for review next time.

x S/U grading

fThe committee reviewed data about how students used S/U grading option for Fall 2020.

fOver 1100 students submitted S/U grading applications

fData is available by student level, course number, program of study, and letter grade replaced.

fUGC can review the data at their next meeting and report back to AP

DISCUSSION:

fThere are a surprising number of courses that would have been “A” and “B” grades without the S/U selection.

fCouch noted that the number of student appeals concerning S/U grading has been relatively small.

fLast Spring there were a handful of appeals asking to revert to the letter grade.

fHowever, the appeals for Fall have been to ask to revert to S/U after the fact.

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fCouch and Heiny will check with Registrar staff about past issues relating to course replacement eligibility and mutually exclusive courses
fCouch will bring a revised version for review next time.

Comments to the Good of the College

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38pm.

Anne Toewe
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary