Academic Policies Committee

Minutes

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Underground, Ellison Campus Center

Meeting: APC 2015/2016: 06

Convened 3:15 p.m.

Attending Joseph Cambone, William Cornwell, Susan Edwards, Lynn Fletcher, Bonnie Galinski, Mindy Jeon, Marty Krugman (Vice Chair), Pamela Leong, Linda Nowak, Ken Reker, Arthur Rosenthal, Steven Silvern, Mustafa Yatin

Guest(s) Rocky Shwedel (School of Education)
Megan Miller (Registrar)

Documents (attached)

I Introduction of Members

II Chair’s Report

The minutes for the last meeting were distributed and will be approved over email.

III Old Business

A. Directed Study Exception for General Education 16:242

This proposal was approved at the meeting on April 7, 2016

B. Defining Directed Studies and Independent Studies 16:243

Motion: Motion to untable Proposal 16:243
Made by: P. Leong
Seconded by: L. Fletcher

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Overview: M. Miller gave an overview of the issue. The item first came under discussion at the General Education Committee in the context of whether there could be an exception for such courses to fulfill the W-III requirement. When M. Miller compiled a list of all Directed and Independent Studies classes, the terms seemed to be used interchangeably. In some cases a Directed/Independent Study is used as a means of offering a course already on the books that a student needs to complete their program and in other cases they are used for independent research on a question that isn’t addressed in any existing course. The General Education Committee submitted a policy to address the immediate short term need but there is a larger need to address and define the terms. There is a need for thoughtful, analytic discussion about how these courses fit into the general education curriculum.

L. Fletcher asked if we could just allow them to be used interchangeably.
M. Miller said we could but the General Education Committee would like us to define them.
The immediate question regarding whether directed/independent studies courses could fulfill the W-III requirement was addressed at the April 7, 2016 meeting. Vice Chair Krugman said that there isn’t any urgency as we passed the exception.

W. Cornwell asked if it would be possible to find out the rationale for the distinction between Directed Study and Independent Study. Vice Chair Krugman suggested that we get clarification on the original restriction before we act on the proposal. He asked W. Cornwell to write down his concerns and these can be sent to All-University (AUC), the Curriculum Committee, and the General Education Committee for clarification on the original restriction.

Motion to table the proposal until we get feedback
- Made by: P. Leong
- Seconded by L. Fletcher
- The motion passed unanimously.

C. Revision to Foreign Language Policy

Motion to approve Proposal 16:244
- Made by: L. Fletcher
- Seconded by: P. Leong

Discussion: As there was no one from the World Languages and Cultures Department to give background on the proposal, Vice Chair Krugman read the current policy and the proposed change. The foreign language requirement is proficiency at the intermediate level. This proposed policy would expand the allowed courses from 300/400 level to any 200 level courses above 202.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Revision to CLEP Examination Requirement in Spanish

Motion to approve Proposal 16:245
- Made by: Joe Cambone
- Seconded by: L. Fletcher

Vic Chair Krugman read the proposed policy. There was no discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Revision to Foreign Language Substitution (Proposal 16:246)

Vice Chair Krugman read the existing and proposed policy. J. Cambone noted that the language doesn’t include a documented disability.
M. Miller said that while registering a disability with Disability Services is standard, it is also a possibility for a student that is not documented with a disability to have a faculty member document failure in foreign language ability. J. Cambone said that puts the University in a precarious position legally. M. Miller said that Disability Services has been concerned about this issue. J. Cambone said that Disability Services needs to be sure it follows case law. Those proposing this revision should work with Disability Services to make sure it is in accordance with their policies. W. Cornwell noted that there is already a policy in place that allows for substitution without Disability Services involvement. J. Cambone said that the full policy needs to be looked at. L. Nowak said that this policy could expose other departments to grievances, etc. W. Cornwell suggested that we table the proposal so that a representative from WLC can be here as we have concerns whether it fits into the university’s policies. J. Cambone suggested that we invite Disability Services also.

Motion to table.
Made by: W. Cornwell
Seconded by: P. Leong

The motion passed unanimously.

F. Investigate the Difference Between a BA and a BS at SSU (per AUC)
G. Review Policy of the Requirement of a Foreign Language and the BA

Vice Chair Krugman said that this issue came up two years ago. There are no accreditation issues. M. Miller said there is a question of why we do this. All BAs have a minor and foreign language requirement. While some minors and/or a foreign language are vital for a department, it doesn’t necessarily make sense for all. Could we make BAs more flexible? M. Miller and S. Edwards went over the history of these requirements at other universities in general and at Salem State in particular. M. Miller said that one concern was that some departments have both a BA and a BS. There is also a larger question for the university: do we know what we are saying when we say BA vs. BS? Vice Chair Krugman will contact AUC to clarify what they want from APC.

H. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Composition

There has been a lot of interest in Proposal 16:240 regarding the IACUC Committee Composition. Members of the affected departments as well as IACUC members and the proposers wanted more time to react to the proposal. Rocky Schwedel formally requested that the document he wrote about the proposal be formally distributed. All documents will distributed to committee members.
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<th>VI.</th>
<th>Motion to table</th>
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<td>Made by: B. Galinski</td>
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<td>Seconded by: W. Cornwell</td>
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<td>The motion passed unanimously</td>
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<th>VI.</th>
<th>Adjournment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>Motion to adjourn</td>
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<td>Motion made by: P. Leong</td>
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<td>Seconded by: L. Fletcher</td>
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<td>Vote</td>
<td>In favor (8). Against (0). Abstentions (0). Motion passed unanimously.</td>
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<td>Adjourned</td>
<td>at 4:42</td>
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Respectfully submitted,

Susan Edwards

Next Meeting: May 12, 2016 at 3:15 p.m. in Ellison Campus Center, Metro Room