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Educational Policies Committee Agenda, October 7, 2004

Utah State University

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EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE AGENDA
7 October 2004

A meeting of the Educational Policies Committee will be held on 7 October 2004 at 3 p.m. in Old Main 136 (Champ Hall Conference Room).

I. Approval of the minutes of the 2 September 2004 meeting

II. Subcommittee Reports

A. Curriculum Subcommittee

1. Course Approvals

2. Graduate Council Business

3. Curriculum Subcommittee Handbook

4. Dual and Composite Majors

B. Academic Standards Subcommittee (Jeff Walters)

Report of the Academic Standards Subcommittee for the October 7, 2004 EPC Meeting

The Academic Standards Subcommittee (ASC) met on September 13, 2004. The following issues were considered at this meeting:

1. Articulation of credit from nonaccredited sources. The Subcommittee was informed that the Associate Deans’ Council has recommended that USU not grant any credit for non-institutional learning experiences. The ASC endorses this recommendation.

2. Articulation of Credit from Less-Accredited Institutions. The Subcommittee was informed that the Associate Deans’ Council has recommended that USU immediately begin articulating transfer credit from Southern Virginia University. Other related issues will be addressed at a meeting of the Associate Deans’ Council to be held shortly. Concern was expressed by ASC members regarding the concept of USU articulating transfer credit from nonaccredited institutions as fulfilling General Education/University Studies requirements when there are programs offered at USU whose own outside accreditation includes this aspect of the program along with major requirements. There was also concern about circumstances in which students change majors after such credit has been articulated for the previous major.

3. Military Credit. John Mortensen circulated a policy document on articulation of credit earned through programs offered by the military services. This is identical to a policy already in place, except that it expands the existing policy to include credit earned in programs offered by the Navy/ Marine Corps, as well as the Army. In no case will USU articulate credit that is of a vocational nature. The ASC endorsed the procedures included in the document presented to it.
4. Definition of “Good Standing”. The ASC continued its discussion of this issue, receiving reports on Board of Regents’ interfaces with this issue and on the status of students in the Interdisciplinary Studies program. The ASC also took note that Mathematics and Statistics are additional majors in which students may earn a baccalaureate degree with a 2.0 GPA. There was concern that students might not realize in a timely manner that they are at risk of not being able to fulfill graduation requirements, particularly in programs with rising expectations (e.g., 2.0 GPA for entering freshmen, 2.5 GPA for advanced standing, 3.0 GPA for graduation). The ASC adopted a recommendation that each academic unit be requested to review the status of its majors each semester and initiate a form of academic intervention whenever it appears a student is at risk of not being able to meet program GPA standards. Forms that might be taken by such intervention include registration/advising holds, course prerequisite restrictions, or personal contact from an advisor. The Subcommittee will continue its consideration of other aspects of this issue.

The ASC did not have time at the September meeting to address in detail the following issues, which will receive consideration at future meetings:
Policy on IELI credits that can be counted toward graduation;
Academic accommodation for students called for jury service;
Impact of state mandates on course repeat policy;
Simultaneous awarding of multiple bachelor’s degrees.

Report submitted by:

Jeffrey L. Walters
Chair, Academic Standards Subcommittee

C. General Education Subcommittee (Norm Jones)
See attachment

D. Distance and Electronic Education Subcommittee (David Luthy)

III. Other Items of Business