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Educational Policies Committee. Paper 307.

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**USU ACADEMIC STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE
of the EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE
Minutes for September 13, 2004**

Present: Jeffrey Walters (Chair), Vicki Allan, Stan Allen, Scott Allgood, Heidi Beck, Heidi Evans, Dwight Israelsen, John Mortensen, Sydney Peterson, Gene Schupp (sub), Weldon Sleight, Paul Wheeler

Excused: Helga Van Miegroet

Absent: Richley Crapo

Guest: Rachel Lewis

Chairman Jeff Walters called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. in AG SC 241.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the April 13, 2004 ASC Meeting: J. Walters noted one correction to the April Minutes. At the time of the meeting Heidi Evans had already succeeded Karla Petty as the ASUSU representative on the ASC. Paul Wheeler moved approval of the corrected April meeting minutes and Gene Schupp seconded the motion. The motion was adopted and the minutes stand as printed.

2. Information Item: ASC web page: Jeff Walters informed the committee members that over the summer Ryan Passey, former Faculty Senate Secretary, created web pages for all FS committees, including the EPC and each of its subcommittees. At present, the ASC webpage does not have any content, but Jeff Walters believes it will be possible to post our Minutes (including drafts) and perhaps our agendas on this site, which should improve the flow of information on committee business. The ASC web page can be accessed by following links found at the Faculty Senate website.

3. Follow-up on Committee Actions: Jeff Walters reported at the September 2 EPC meeting on the ASC's progress with ongoing items under consideration and the recommendations generated at our April Meeting. The EPC accepted the recommendations that no separate standard be created for awarding Honors with 2nd bachelor's degrees and not to extend the window for students to add classes without the instructor's signature beyond the 1st week of the term. The EPC asked the ASC to invite input from the IELI before finalizing its recommendation on whether the Registrar's office should enforce the limit on IELI credit that can be counted toward graduation.

4. Articulation of Credit from Non-Accredited Sources: The Associate Dean's Council has recommended that USU not grant any credit for non-institutional learning experiences, and this has been accepted by the Provost's office.

5. Articulation of Credit from Less-Accredited Institutions and the Credit Recommendation Process: Rachel Lewis indicated that this was being presented as an information item, since the Associate Deans were scheduled to meet tomorrow to finalize their recommendations on this issue. She circulated a summary of the preliminary recommendations generated made by the Associate Deans at their July 19, 2004 meeting. This included a flow chart for the process for evaluating and accepting credit of this nature for articulation with USU courses. This process will be managed by Rachel Lewis on behalf of the Advising & Transfer Services office. Rachel noted that one other decision from this meeting was to immediately begin articulating transfer credit from Southern Virginia University on the same basis as credit from fully accredited institutions. Vicki

Allan expressed concern about the University articulating transfer credit from non-accredited institutions as fulfilling General Education/Universities Studies requirements when program accreditation in her department among others includes this component as well as coursework in the area of specialization. There was also concern expressed about circumstances in which a student changes major after the unit offering the previous major has approved articulation of this kind of credit.

6. Military Credit: John Mortensen circulated a document (Evaluation of Credit for Military Service) detailing procedures for articulating credit earned through programs offered by the military services. He explained that this applies only to academic credit; USU will not articulate military credit of a vocational nature. The process is the same as one already in place, except that it has been expanded to include programs offered by the Navy/Marine Corps, as well as the Army. It was moved by Dwight Israelsen and seconded by Heidi Beck that the ASC endorse the procedures contained in the document that John Mortensen had circulated. The motion was adopted.

7. Definition of ‘Good Standing’: Jeff Walters summarized for the committee our previous deliberations on this issue and the types of information we had requested assigned members to collect for us over the summer. Sydney Peterson informed the committee that the Board of Regents has no policy of its own regarding ‘Good Standing’. She further observed that the Regents were at the point for rescinding their freeze on proposals for new academic programs, but that if we were to look in this direction to resolve the concerns raised regarding this issue, it would take about three years to get a new academic program up and running.

Heidi Beck circulated a summary of the GPA status of students enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Studies program, noting that the program is in transition from having all majors advised by the Science/HASS Advising Center to being advised within their own individual colleges. Most IDS students have GPA’s well above 2.0 and are pursuing bona fide programs that cross the traditional boundaries of individual academic disciplines. However, there is some evidence that there are a few students who are using this program as a salvage operation to qualify for graduation when they are unable to satisfy the requirements of traditional programs. There was considerable discussion of the original intent and nature of the Interdisciplinary Studies program. There was general agreement that this program can offer a vehicle for students to earn a degree when other avenues appear to be closed to them due to a variety of circumstances.

There was also concern expressed that students might not realize in a timely manner that they are encountering the possibility of not being able to graduate in their current major if it is one that imposes rising expectations as a student advances through the program (e.g., a degree program that allows Freshmen to enter with a 2.0 GPA, but requires a 2.5 GPA for advanced standing, and a 3.0 GPA for graduation). John Mortensen moved, seconded by Vicki Allan, that the ASC recommend that each academic unit be requested to review the status of its majors each semester and notify individual students or put registration holds in place when it appears they are at risk of not being able to meet program GPA standards. The motion was adopted.

8. Policy on IELI credits that can be counted towards graduation.

9. Academic accommodation for students called for jury service.

11. Impact of state mandates on course repeat policy.

12. Simultaneous awarding of multiple bachelor's degrees.

Due to lack of time, the committee was unable to give full consideration to the remaining agenda items at this meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.