Academic Standards Subcommittee Minutes, October 11, 2004

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USU ACADEMIC STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE
of the EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE
Minutes for October 11, 2004

Present: Jeffrey Walters (Chair), Vicki Allan, Stan Allen, Scott Allgood, Richley Crapo, Heidi Evans, Steve Hanks (sub), Dwight Israelsen, Janalee Johnson (sub), Helga Van Miegroet, John Mortensen, Sydney Peterson, Paul Wheeler
Excused: Heidi Beck, Weldon Sleight
Guest: Krystin Deschamps

Chairman Jeff Walters called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in AG SC 241.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the September 13, 2004 ASC meeting: Helga Van Miegroet indicated that her last name was spelled incorrectly in the minutes. J. Walters noted the following corrections to the draft Minutes: add Heidi Evans name to the members excused; under item number 5 strike “made” but leave “generated’;” also under number 5 change “for” to “of” in the third sentence; and correct the spelling from “thair” to “their” in item number 7. Stan Allen moved approval of the minutes as corrected with Scott Allgood seconding the motion. The motion was adopted.

2. Follow-up on Committee actions: J. Walters reported that at the EPC October meeting after a discussion and explanation respecting acceptance of credit from Southern Virginia University the ASC report was accepted. This included our recommendations on non-acceptance of non-academic credit, acceptance of academic military credit, and adoption of procedures for notification of students on their GPA status.

3. Articulation of credit from less-accredited institutions: Janalee Johnson was not provided the information concerning this topic, so John Mortensen reported that Rachel Lewis has prepared a flow chart detailing the procedures a student must follow in order to have transfer credit from a non-accredited institution accepted by USU. A packet would be sent to the associate deans so they could make a determination if the student’s credit could be accepted. The GenEd requirements would be sent to the colleges for review. Each student’s articulation would be reviewed by the associate dean. Paul Wheeler questioned if the committee should vote on this.

John Mortensen moved and Dwight Israelsen seconded the motion that “The process that has been presented for reviewing the acceptance, evaluation, and articulation of transfer credits from “other” accredited institutions” be approved. The motion carried. NOTE: “other accredited institutions” has been proposed as a preferable designation to “less accredited institutions” that was employed in earlier discussions of this issue.

4. Definition of ‘Good Standing’: The University accepts a 2.0 GPA as evidence of good standing with only Math, Geology, and Interdisciplinary Studies also accepting this GPA for graduation. Sydney Peterson read the Board of Regents policy #461. Transfer students come in with a 2.2 GPA, then they can fall down to a 2.0 GPA and remain in good standing. Departments need to be more proactive and keep track of each student’s GPA. J. Walters felt this had to be done by each department for its own majors. However, John Mortensen informed the committee that other developments are occurring related to this issue and it might be advisable
for the ASC to defer adopting recommendations on this matter. It has been proposed that as sophomores undeclared students who do not have a major must decide what major to go into. The committee decided to suspend further consideration of this issue pending further developments.

5. Academic accommodation for students fulfilling civic/military obligations: A draft Resolution on this issue that is under consideration by ASUSU was distributed to the Committee members. Heidi Evans indicated that the ASUSU would be voting on the Resolution on Tuesday, October 12, 2004. She asked if the Committee wished to recommend changes in the Resolution. The committee felt that on line 29 the phrase “with unfair grading practices” following “penalized” should be removed, and replaced with “as long as the student follows procedures.” Line 51 should read “date” instead of “grade.”

Lines 52 to 56 should indicate that the student should inform the professor, but not necessarily an advisor, and should get back to the professor if the student is actually assigned jury duty. It was felt that lines 60 and 61 should be altered to indicate “students who are absent from class owing to jury duty may be subject to receiving an incomplete grade until any work missed is completed.”

6. Impact of state mandates on course repeat policy: John Mortensen indicated USU allows students to repeat a class twice to receive a better grade. The state has a policy to double the cost for a class repeated a second time. The consensus of the Committee was that USU was entitled to maintain its current repeat policy for academic reasons and make tuition adjustments as mandated when the implementation of the state policy is clarified.

7. Simultaneous awarding of multiple bachelor’s degrees: Sydney Peterson reviewed the university policy. The University is not set up to award two B.S. degrees simultaneously. If a student has two separate majors or dual majors the policy is to award a single degree if they are completed the at same time. A second B.S. degree with 30 credits above the first one can be awarded. It was decided to wait until Heidi Beck was present before further discussion on this subject.

8. Other business: John Mortensen introduced a draft policy providing that “If, prior to or after taking an AP, CLEP, IBO, or DSST examination, a student receives credit for any coursework equivalent to the subject matter of an AP, CLEP, IBO, or DSST examination, the number of credits earned for the course will be deducted from the credits awarded for the examination.” After explaining and responding to questions on the purpose of the policy and how it would be put into practice, John Mortensen moved that the proposal he presented to allocate examination credit and course credit be approved, and Richley Crapo seconded. The committee adopted the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.