9-16-2005

Academic Standards Subcommittee Minutes, September 16, 2005

Utah State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/fs_edpol

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/fs_edpol/314

This Academic Standards Subcommittee Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Educational Policies Committee by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.
USU ACADEMIC STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE
of the EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

Minutes for September 16, 2005

Present: Jeffrey Walters (Chair), Scot Allgood, Todd Crowl, Krystin Deschamps (sub), David Goetze, John Mortensen, Edward Reeve, Weldon Sleight, Gary Straquadine, Kathryn Turner, Spencer Watts

Excused: Heidi Beck, Dwight Israelsen

Absent: Stan Allen

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Walters at 3:30 p.m. in Ag Sci 241.

1. Introductions: The committee member introduced themselves to each other and indicated which college or unit they represented.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the March 10, 2005 Committee meeting: Scott Allgood moved and Ed Reeve seconded that the minutes should be approved as printed. The motion was adopted.

3. Follow-up on Committee actions:

   As late as mid-August the “University Grade Scale” had not been removed from the USU Syllabus Resources website, as required by a recommendation of the ASC adopted by the EPC at its 3 March 2005 meeting. Jeff Walters placed the relevant ASC motion on the agenda for the 1 September 2005 EPC meeting so that its enforcement might be clarified. The “University Grade Scale” has now been deleted from the USU Syllabus Resources website. At the suggestion of John Mortensen, the second recommended action in the ASC’s motion will be implemented by including the remaining Syllabus Resources material in the USU Policies and Procedures manual, rather than in the USU General Catalog, as was suggested in the original motion.

4. Calculations in Banner (information): This item was removed from the agenda at the request of the proposer, Heidi Beck.

5. Ad hoc Committee on Academic Rights and Responsibilities (information): At its meeting on 29 August 2005 the Faculty Senate approved the formation of an ad hoc committee, chaired by Senate President-elect Lynn Dudley, to address the issue of Academic Rights and Responsibilities that arose from a case that occurred at the University of Utah several years ago. Among other aspects, this issue has academic standards implications. The only personal link between the ad hoc committee and the ASC is Spencer Watts, who represents ASUSU on both bodies. Spencer informed the ASC that the ad hoc committee has held one meeting so far at which it deliberated on the ground rules for its deliberations and the input it needed to gather.
6. **Foreign Language Test Credits and Cumulative GPA:** Krystin Deschamps discussed the foreign language exam/transfer credit issue. Banner is unable to post credits earned in this way as transfer credit as was done under SIS+. John Mortensen indicated a Pass/Fail grade as used with CLEP could work. Spencer Watts wondered if this would be in the students’ interests. Additional discussion concerned the handling of IELI students and ESL credits earned at USU. Should students taking English as a foreign language receive traditional grades while students earning credit for their proficiency in languages other than English be limited to PDF grades? Would PDF grading of this foreign language credit have credibility with potential employers? Some wondered if “credit by examination” could be placed on the transcript along with a traditional grade. Jeff Walters requested that the committee defer further consideration of this issue until more information was available.

7. **Review of USU Courses requirement for graduation:** Weldon Sleight reviewed how a student needs to earn at least 10 of the last 40 credits from USU in order to receive their degree from USU. He suggested there are scenarios where this might not be practical, such as if students were to move away during the junior year and went enroll at another school where they could complete the requirements for their major. There was discussion pro and con about the rationale for this requirement. It seems that its intent is that students should earn the core of the upper division credit in their major a USU if they are to receive a USU degree. Jeff Walters tabled this issue until the committee could gather further information. Krystin Deschamps (Heidi Beck) and Gary Straquadine would check into the history and purpose of the requirement and report back at the next meeting.

8. **General Studies / Provisional Admission:** Some students who do nor meet standard USU admissions requirements are being admitted to General Studies to have an opportunity to prove their ability to be accepted into a major at USU. Some problems have been encountered in tracking and counseling these students successfully. John Mortensen presented a proposal for a policy of Provisional Admission that would replace the General Studies program and provide for more specific conditions that they must fulfill during their first semester of enrollment in order to be able to continue at USU. If the conditions were not met these students would be automatically suspended from the university (by a policy change recommended by the ASC last year, initial suspension at USU is now for two semesters). There was discussion by the committee of the recommended conditions to be applied to students who are admitted provisionally. Kathryn Turner indicated that there should be a form on which the course instructors could submit the mid term grade to the advisor; the student should not have to do this. Scot Allgood felt that since Athletic Office already has a process in place for obtaining midterm grades, we should contact them to review their procedures. The target date for implementing the proposed new policy would be Fall 2006.
9. *Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree requirements:* John Mortensen indicated that there needed to be a clarification of the ways in which students can fulfill the foreign language requirement necessary to be awarded a BA. He provided a handout that indicated three ways for native English speakers to do so (there are also two ways for non-native speakers of English to earn a BA, but no change is being proposed in their means for doing so). The essential difference from the current requirements is to base demonstration of foreign language competency on course level, rather than on total number of course credits earned was given which showed five proposed changes. Todd Crowl felt that there was a lack of clarity in the wording of requirements #1 and #3. It was felt that the committee needed to have a better understanding of the proposal before it could act on it.

10. *Other Business:*

   (a) John Mortensen indicated that the 18 credit registration limit (USU General Catalog, page 35) cannot be enforced as written in Banner. It was suggested that the second sentence in the policy should be removed. Following discussion, John Mortensen moved and Ed Reeve seconded that the policy should be that “Students registering for more than 18 credits prior to the fee payment deadline must present their dean’s signed authorization to the Registrar’s Office. The motion carried.

   (b) Jeff Walters notified the ASC members that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee held a special meeting on 6 September 2005 to address concerns about Continuing Education’s involvement in the “University Studies Program” offered at Palmyra, NY., and as a consequence had decided to form a Senate Task Force consisting an individual designated by each Senate Committee and Subcommittee to address the issues involved. To date ASC Chair Jeff Walters has not been contacted about this proposed Task Force. Weldon Sleight indicated that this was never a program only a course for one semester. **NOTE:** *Subsequent to this meeting J. Walters learned that the FSEC reconsidered its plans to establish a Task Force, and has instead turned the whole issue over to the EPC.*

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.