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Academic Standards Committee

January 13, 2009 3 p.m.
Snow Room, Family Life Building

The meeting was called to order by Scot Allgood at 3 p.m.

Attendance: Vincent Lafferty, Ed Glatfelter, Chris Call, Pete Campbell, Ann Roemer, Scot Allgood, John Mortensen, Janis Winkler, Michael Lyons

The minutes from the last meeting held November 13, 2008 were approved.

Action Items:

1. TOEFL – IELTS discussion led by Ann Roemer-
A motion was made and passed to raise the test scores to the following:
TOEFL- IBT- 71
TOEFL- PBT- 525
IELTS – 6.0 with a minimum of 5 on each of the four subscales (listening, reading, writing, speaking)
2. Associate of Science Degree discussion led by Vince Lafferty
It is anticipated that this policy will effect less than 100 students per year. The Associates degree as currently constructed is not meeting it's intended purpose- serving as a transition degree for off campus students. Students who complete this degree anticipate that they will only need two years to complete a Bachelor's degree and this is seldom the case.

At the present time, in order to fulfill the requirements for the AS degree a student must:

1. Complete all of the current General Education courses in the different areas including the CIL exam.
2. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
3. Complete up to sixty (60) credits.

Students that complete the minimum requirements listed above are not ready to declare a major which must occur at USU after 60 credits and usually are not any closer to graduation with a Bachelors degree than student s that complete General Education only.

Proposed Change: The request is to change the requirements to attain the AS degree to:

1. Complete all of the current General Education courses in the different areas including the CIL exam.
2. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
3. Complete up to sixty (60) credits of which **20 credits must be required in the Bachelors degree path or at the 2000 level or above.**

Rationale: This change will force students who wish to complete a Bachelors degree to think carefully about a major to transition into as well as spur students to complete the required courses that allow them to declare a major. This in turn not helps retention but time to graduation. A student who is majors in Engineering or Business might be encouraged to complete the entry level Calculus series for instance or entry level Engineering courses.

This change in the AS degree has been discussed with the Executive Director of the Branch Campuses and the Vice Provost for Regional Campuses. All are in agreement.

It should also be noted that a letter of completion (Gen Ed and 60 hours) is still available and will qualify high school students for the New Century Scholarships.

The motion was made and passed to approve the above changes to the Associates degree.