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Academic Standards Subcommittee minutes

11 December 2014

A meeting of the Academic Standards Subcommittee was held on 11 December 2014 at 2:00 pm in Old Main 136 (Champ Hall Conference Room)

Present: Scott Bates, Chair, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services
Roland Squire, Registrar's Office (represented by Eric Humphrey)
Heidi Kesler, Curriculum Retention
Deidri Nielson, Secretary
Dawn Kirby, College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Doug Fiefia, USUSA President
Thom Fronk, Engineering
Nathan Straight, Regional Campuses
Marci Smith, Registrar's Office

Absent: Stephanie Hamblin, Advising
Karen Mock, Quinney College of Natural Resources

Visitors: Brandy Reeves, Student Services

I. Approval of minutes

The minutes from the November 11th, 2014, meeting were approved as adjusted by the educational policy committee (which modified the grading policy to say that grades are due 120 hours after the last final of the semester).

II. International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) Awarding of Credit Policy

Brandy Reeves reviewed the policies of all the state institutions and found that Utah State University's current IBO policy was misaligned; this is potentially problematic given articulation agreements. The discussion centered on changes necessary to the current policy to bring USU not to just the standard level but to a higher level in the state's scoring requirements; edits and additions are reflected in the accepted new IBO policy which will go into effect immediately. (see attached new IBO policy)

Dawn Kirby motioned to accept revisions to IBO; Eric Humphrey seconded. Outcome: motion passed.

III. Excused Absence Policy

Scott Bates started the discussion by stating that the current excused absence policy is found in two places: the student code and the USU catalog. There is discussion to remove the excused absence policy from the student code, therefore, in the future the new excused absence policy

will only be found in the catalog. Scott is working from Texas A&M's excused absence policy as a starting point for discussion.

Some questions/concerns were:

- Several members raised questions about limits on excused time from class "meetings." The current draft policy refers to business days.
- Nathan Straight brought up a concern for faculty working with students in classes that meet once-per-week; if they miss a class it is two and half hours of class time. He suggested that accreditation may inform this new policy.
- Question was raised by Dawn Kirby: should there be specific language about time away for internships. Follow-on question raised by Doug Fiefia: should there be language about job interviews?
- Compliance with Title IX is currently not in the USU excused absence policy. It is include in the revised policy.
- Procedures for the excused absence policy surrounding grievances should involve - Deans, VP of Athletics, or VP Student Services
- Several members raised questions about the policy and how it fits with existing policies (e.g., incomplete, semester withdrawal, academic record adjustment).

Scott Bates requested additional feedback on the proposed policy change and will bring a revised draft Excused Absence policy that incorporates feedback to the next sub-committee meeting.

IV. The January 9th meeting is cancelled. We will look for another date and notify the committee.

International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) Awarding of Credit Policy:

USU recognizes the International Baccalaureate program. Students who enter USU with International Baccalaureate credits are encouraged to apply to the Honors Program. Students who present an International Baccalaureate diploma will be awarded **no more than the number of credits earned** with a maximum of 30 credits. These credits will waive the appropriate Breadth and Communications Literacy requirements, but students will still be required to complete the Quantitative Literacy requirement, unless individual scores on IB exams waive those requirements. Each student's transcript will be evaluated individually, based on the courses completed. Students who have not completed the International Baccalaureate diploma may receive **up to 8 credits** for scores of 5 to 7 on higher-level exams (as shown below), up to a maximum of 30 credits.

Individual departments and/or colleges may specify the exact courses necessary to fulfill program requirements. Please note that more than the minimum General Education requirements may be necessary. For instance, some departments and colleges require specific coursework for General Education, and the IBO exams may not satisfy these requirements, in which case additional courses may be required.

If, prior to (or after) taking an IBO examination, a student receives credit (including AP credit) **for any coursework equivalent to the subject matter** of an IBO examination, the IBO credits equivalent to the course will be deducted.

USU recognizes that other institutions have policies differing from those of USU and that those institutions may evaluate the IBO transcript differently than USU. For this reason, please note that transfer students with IBO credits posted to another institution's transcript, but who have less than an associate degree, will have their IBO credits reevaluated based on USU's standards.