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Educational Policies Committee Minutes, September 3, 2020

Utah State University

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Minutes

Present: Paul Barr, Chair, Provost’s Office
Mateja Savoie Roskos, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
Nicholas Morrison, Caine College of the Arts and Curriculum Subcommittee Chair
Sterling Bone, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
Kat Oertle, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
Matt Sanders, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Mike Conover, S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources
Dan Coster, College of Science
Renee Galliher, Academic Standards Chair
Lee Rickords, General Education Subcommittee Chair
Shana Geffeney, Statewide Campuses
Robert Heaton, University Libraries
Jason Marshall, USU Eastern
Richard Cutler, Graduate Council
Lucas Stevens, USUSA Executive Vice President
Alex Braeger, Graduate Studies Senator
Fran Hopkin, Registrar’s Office
Chenese Boyle, Academic and Instructional Services
Michele Hillard, Secretary
Harrison Kleiner, GE Assessment

Absent: Timothy Taylor, College of Engineering
Sami Ahmed, President USUSA
Robyn Peterson, Catalog Editor

Guests: N/A

I. Approval of 2 April 2020 Minutes.
Renee Galliher – Lee Rickords

II. Subcommittee Reports

a. Curriculum Subcommittee (Nicholas Morrison)
   Motion to approve the Curriculum Subcommittee report made by Dan Coster.
   Course Approvals – 26 (some minor revisions)
Program Proposals
Request from the School of Teacher Education and Leadership in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services to add Interventions for Secondary Students' as a new specialization within the existing Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction.

Request from the School of Teacher Education and Leadership in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services to add Interventions for Secondary Students as a new specialization within the existing Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction.

Request from the Department of Languages, Philosophy and Communications Studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to restructure the department. Resulting in two departments, specifically the Department of World Languages and Cultures and the Department of Communication Studies and Philosophy.

b. Academic Standards Subcommittee (Renee Galliher)
Minutes – No meeting

c. General Education Subcommittee (Lee Rickords)
Minutes – 21 April 2020
Motion to approve the General Education Subcommittee minutes made by Richard Cutler. Seconded by Nick Morrison. Minutes approved.

Great news on the accreditation front. USU has been cleared and Northwest has accepted USU’s plan as satisfactory for the previous deficiencies. USU has received a green light to move forward.

III. Other Business
Learning objectives for new course approvals. How do we put in a course description that accurately describes the course? We should have this information included in Curriculog. The syllabus requirement was taken out about two years ago. It was decided that as long as departments were reviewing the syllabi that the Curriculum/EPC committees did not need to see them. Learning objectives are required, however, for new course approvals. New syllabi do not need to be uploaded in Curriculog.

Fran Hopkin spent some time talking about the new deadline/timelines. These dates can be viewed on the home page of Curriculog. Deadlines are October for Spring semester. If the update is for Summer or Fall the deadline is February. Requests need to be at the EPC/Curriculum meetings for October and February.

Calendar committee is looking at making changes for the solution to Spring break. The Stabilization Task Force has asked to look at how we can move forward with Spring semester. We start the semester with two three-day weekends where mostly everyone travels. The equally large issue is the spring break. Concern is having students travel and then come back on campus. Working on alternatives to keep students and staff safe. The proposed solution is to start one week late. Students would not start Spring semester until after Martin Luther King Day. Starting late would eliminate spring break. Students and some faculty are distressed about not having spring break. We are nearing a point where we have enough support. It is not unanimous, but it looks like we can finalize the schedule. It is not likely to have consensus on this, but they understand that something needs to be done and there is no ideal solution.
The majors’ meetings are becoming more active and more is being asked of them. Met to discuss transfer/articulation. In particular, the goal was to try to get institutions on the same page as how they would articulate tests for incoming students and there is a lot of variation among institutions. Students are clever and will play institutions off each other. There is wisdom in getting the faculty and programs together to set guidelines for articulation. Some majors are completed and then there are still some who are having some issues. Some have been pushed out until next year when we would be able to make those decisions.

Introduction of Richard Cutler. He is the new Interim Vice Provost of the School of Graduate Studies. The office is currently working on problems with the admissions office. Currently at the last stages of interviewing candidates to help with the backlog and upcoming onslaught and focusing on communication efforts. Grad Student health insurance has taken a big hit. The students took a 27% hit on their premiums. Looking to solicit new bids for insurance. Coverage of dependents is incredibly expensive, and it is likely to go away. For the individual grad student insurance may be expanded.

We will need to look this year at transfer students and the ease with which they can transfer from one institution to another. Some of our funding comes from completion and having students transfer like this could cause problems. Two-year institutions only get credit if they get a student through completion. When a student transfers to a four-year institution our programs have 3XXX and 4XXX level classes within those first two years. Students end up having excess credits that do not count towards the degree. USHE is looking at seeing how we can help them transfer and get credit for everything they have done.

Adjourn: 4:00 pm