

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Senate Educational Policies Committee
November 25, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Present: Amy Aggelou, Bonnie Falcione, Irene Frieze, Zsuzsa Horvath, A. Murat Kaynar, Kathleen Kelly, Juan Manfredi, Helen Petracchi, Kimberly Brown-Riley, Nashaat Rizk, Laurel Roberts, Alberta Sbragia, Cynthia Tananis

Excused: Mary Lou Leibold

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The October meeting meetings were reviewed and approved.

Introduction of new members:

Murat Kaynar (Department of Critical Care Medicine & Anesthesiology) will be serving the remainder of Burhan Gharaibeh's term.

Kimberly Brown-Riley has been appointed as the Graduate Student representative to the committee.

Old Business:

The course summary form was discussed again based on the request of students that they have more information about courses before self-enrollment. The committee agreed to utilize the Course Description forms that already exist and are processed through Arts & Sciences. In discussions with Arts & Sciences it was determined that the SEPC recommendations could be implemented easily but the challenge will be with finding a 'good fit' for the 17 different Schools at the University.

The committee will finalize their *recommendations* on the content of the Course Description templates and then will explore the best way to facilitate implementation across all units and Departments.

The committee discussed the increasing popularity of the UG teaching experiences available in a number of Departments. As a result the Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences recently published guidelines for undergraduates teaching experiences and these outline the goals and expectations of this experience.

<http://www.as.pitt.edu/fac/teaching/guidelines-arts-and-sciences-undergraduate-teaching-experience>

No action was taken on this item.

New Business:

In conjunction with the recent discussions in the University Senate on committee meetings, the University Times has contacted Senate committees to ask if they would be amenable to having a representative from the University Times attend meetings, as their schedule would permit. The committee unanimously agreed to share the SEPC agenda and meeting minutes, but not to have a University Times presence during the actual meetings.

Vice Provost updates:Vice-Provost Manfredi:

Provost Advisory Council on Undergraduate Programs (PACUP) committee received and recommended approval of a proposal for a new major in Spanish Education at UP Greensburg.

The 2nd annual Assessment Conference will take place on Friday, January 31st. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Carl Wieman, Professor of Physics from Stanford University, and a 2001 Nobel Prize winner in Physics. Dr. Wieman will be discussing STEM education.

Vice Provost Sbragia:

The University of Pittsburgh recently purchased a license to use advanced anti-plagiarism software from the company iThenticate. This software is being made available for use by University faculty and staff for both research and academic purposes. More information about the software and the Account Request Form can be found on the iThenticate website at: <http://www.ithenticate.com/>.

ACIE update:

The first meeting of the 2013-14 Provost's Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence ACIE committee was held on October 25th. Dr. Laurie Kirsch, Vice-Provost for Faculty Development is the new Provost's liaison to the committee.

The calendar of meetings was set for the year and the committee will be discussing the RFP for the upcoming Innovations in Education awards.

The committee is also monitoring the status and progress of the online OMET evaluations.

The committee will also be working closely with CIDDE and will be a reporting venue for CIDDE.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.