

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Senate Educational Policies Committee
February 18, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Present: Amy Aggelou, Burhan Gharaibeh, Bonnie Falcione, Kathleen Kelly, Juan Manfredi, Michael Neft, Jay Rajgopal, Laurel Roberts, Cynthia Tananis
John Twynning (*Guest*)

Excused: Debbie Miller, Tom Platt, Alberta Sbragia

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. The minutes from the January meeting were approved.

Old Business:

The discussion continued with respect to the topic of students being able to access information from teaching evaluations. John Twynning, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies in the Dietrich School of A&S, was present to share his perspective on the topic; his comments were not made on behalf of Dean Cooper.

The committee deliberated and ultimately decided against making a specific recommendation that OMET results be made available to students. As it stands, there are several units that already engage in this practice and it was felt that the decision should be at the unit or school level. However, the committee felt strongly that the students' concerns should and could be addressed by utilizing the resources that already exist. Specifically, the committee suggested that:

1. Students have readily available access to **current and updated** course information (course descriptions or syllabi) such that it will allow them to make informed decisions about class enrollment.
2. Students should be made aware of where this information resides in each unit.
3. Academic advisors should be the main source for the students as they deliberate about which courses/sections to enroll.
4. A process should be in place by which all faculty are responsible for providing current and updated information on all courses.

New Business:

The question was raised as to whether or not faculty are obligated to give student athletes [any sport; club, intramural or NCAA] preferential treatment with respect to issues such as class registration, attendance requirements, exam dates, etc.

While faculty may be made aware of a student athlete's travel schedule for their specific sport, there is no obligation to excuse the student from the requirements of the course. The only formal communication that faculty should receive about a student-athlete would be from the Department in Athletics' Academic Support Services. Nevertheless, it was noted that faculty work with students to provide reasonable accommodations, and that this process appears to work well, given the very small number of conflicts reported.

As Pitt Band Members and Cheerleaders are not considered student-athletes, any correspondence concerning travel for those students will come from Department of Athletics' Associate Athletic Director. As in the case above, our faculty and students collaborate to facilitate the participation of our students in these and other activities (i.e. club sports).

Vice Provost update:

A retirement reception was held for Cynthia Miller, former Director of the **University of Pittsburgh Press**.

Vice-Provost Manfredi reported on news from the recent PACUP meeting:

- CBA was given approval to update the following majors:
 - Approval of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Business Information Systems
 - Approval of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Human Resources
 - Approval of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Supply Chain Management
 - Termination of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in General Management

- The Physics Department was given approval to update the following majors:
 - Approval of Bachelor of Arts in Astronomy
 - Modification of Bachelor of Science in Physics
 - Modification of Bachelor of Science in Astronomy
 - Termination of the Bachelor of Arts in Physics and Astronomy

A new program, *The Pitt Summer Edge*, will launch this summer. This program will give Pittsburgh Campus undergraduate students a more competitive advantage through intensive academic and experiential studies. More information can be found at: summeredge.pitt.edu

ACIE Liaison update:

The Best Practices Committee is exploring ways to insure a strong response rate now that the OMET evaluations are moving to an online administration.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Next meeting is slated to be held on March 18th at 3:00pm in CL 826.