

Senate Educational Policies Committee

Meeting Minutes for September 25, 2019

Attendance: Cecchini, Nicole; Falcione, Bonnie; Hampton, Marian (excused); Horvath, Zsuzsa (excused); Jacqueline, Camille (excused); Kelly, M. Kathleen (absent); Kucinski, Barb (excused); Landsittel, Douglas; Lausberg, Cynthia (absent); Lotz, Andrew (excused); Oh, Eunjoo (absent); Polini, Lorraine (excused); Rikstad, Pam; Roberts, Laurel (absent); Schein, Michelle; Shaver, Kevin; Stoner, John; Vento, Barbara.

The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm.

Welcome/Introductions

New and returning committee members were welcomed and thanked by Co-chair Stoner and then committee members introduced themselves. Co-chair Stoner acknowledged that the committee membership now includes a postdoctoral student representative.

Reminders about Fall 2019 meeting dates/times—discussion of Spring 2020

The committee was reminded about the Fall meeting dates and locations (October 21, 2019- 817 CL conference room; November 20, 2019 - 826 CL conference room; December 16, 2019- 817 CL conference room). Input on continuing to schedule alternate days of the week for Spring 2020 was requested with consideration for avoiding schedule conflicts with Faculty Assembly and Senate Council. Committee members voiced agreement with this plan. An electronic calendar will be deployed to continue this conversation to assure opportunity for input across the committee in the upcoming weeks.

Attendance Policy

An attendance policy for the committee exists and attendance will be recorded for each meeting. Members were reminded to email the committee Co-chairs prior to the meeting when conflicts arise so that an excused absence could be documented.

Committee Mission Statement

A copy of the committee mission statement was provided and reviewed. A suggestion was made to update the examples of work conducted by the committee since the last update occurred in 2011.

Updates from Vice Provosts

Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, Nathan Urban, provided the committee with an overview of pertinent items for the year. An upcoming policy revision will be conducted by UCGS. SEPC Co-chair John Stoner will be a contributing member to this work. Upcoming attention will be placed on mentoring and assessment for doctoral programs at both the program and individual student level; discussion is planned for this at an upcoming meeting of Assistant Deans of Graduate Studies. Ongoing work is being devoted to the topic of mental health for graduate students. Policies pertaining to pre-doctoral fellows and individual on training grants are being addressed by UCGS. Conversations surrounding the intellectual property policy particularly as it pertains to course materials (particularly syllabi and online materials) are ongoing and will continue.

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, Joseph McCarthy, provided the committee with an overview of pertinent items for the year. The new policy on policies is in effect. Implementation includes the current example of a provost-area policy pertaining to degree requirements. A current policy charter has been implemented for development of a policy for PACUP. Vice Provost McCarthy is working with the Associate Deans of undergraduate studies on an electronic catalog for policies so that policy updates will reside in this central repository to be accessed by the various undergraduate program websites. A non-thesis option for the Honors College will be pursued. The policy on transfer credits is being addressed for advanced standing credit such that the academic unit to which the credit applies will award the credit rather than the unit the student is enrolled in. A mechanism for interdisciplinary distinction is being developed. The distinctions (five or six of which are initially anticipated) will be a transcript annotation that reflects some combination of curricular, co-curricular, and experiential learning. The first micro-credential will be a Global Distinction and will be unveiled in late October.

Updates from Meetings

Co-chair Stoner provided the update for Faculty Assembly and Senate Council indicating a largely introductory agenda for both that also focused on welcoming new members and the student leaders on the Senate Council. Co-chair Stoner also provided an overview of the items presented at the expanded executive committee of the Faculty Senate included an overview of the items discussed by Chancellor Gallagher and Provost Cudd including the upcoming release of AAU climate survey, increased accessibility to the university and Pell grant matching program, changes for terminology for non-tenure stream descriptor, and attention on mentoring and evaluation of teaching. The balance of the report focused on items presented by the standing committees including: addressing discontinuing use of the GRE, ongoing attention to diversity and inclusion, policy pertaining to technology, faculty grievances stemming from application of satisfaction surveys, addressing mental health needs, implications of gambling for athletics, exploring course availability for athletes, roll-out of the new learning management system (LMS), and implications of the use of data analytics. Co-chair Stoner invited input on inviting standing committee co-chairs to upcoming EPC meetings. It was agreed that these invitations should not be limited to committee chairs and additionally that representatives of the UCTL and CSSD should be invited for the topic of the new LMS rollout. Co-chair Bonnie Falcione reported that she served as liaison to ACIE in AY 18-19 and would be willing to continue to serve in this role for AY 19-20 barring any objections and further reported that the council completed its charge over the summer of submitting to the Provost a report on recommendations addressing the evaluation of teaching.

Ideas for Committee Agenda AY 19-20

Co-chair Stoner led a discussion connecting report topics from the meeting updates to ideas for work for the committee for the upcoming year including: visits from CTL/OAFA, representatives from senate committees with related items of interest (e.g. Faculty Affairs (OMETS), EIDAC (GRE/OMETS), Computing (LMS/Pathways), TAFC (OMETS)), and other items of interest including OMETS, new LMS (Canvas) and Pathways. Co-chair Stoner also invited committee members with expertise and related experience with these topics to lead future discussions. Discussion was opened to the committee for other ideas for AY 19-20.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.