

ACADEMIC POLICY COUNCIL MINUTES

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2020

2:15 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97094392903?pwd=aWVpNjdiM1RoeGFVUmV2N2lJNWkrQT09>

Present: Hans van Oostrom, Tim Brophy, Angela Lindner, Ray Thomas, John Mecholsky, Chris Hass, Laurie Bialosky, Andrew Zimmerman, Angela Bacsik, John Krigbaum, Patricia Sohn, and Youssef Haddad.

1. Call to Order – Hans van Oostrom – APC Chair

-The meeting was called to order by APC Chair Hans van Oostrom at 2:15 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

-[March 20, 2020](#) – The minutes were approved.

-[April 17, 2020](#) – The minutes were approved.

-Council noted that faculty voting rights for tenure and non-tenure track faculty should be consistent and are not subserved by individual unit bylaws. Because council has only peripherally discussed this topic, it could be an item for future discussion.

3. New Business

-[Combination, Joint & Dual Degree Policy](#) – Tim Brophy, Director, Institutional Assessment & Angela Lindner, Associate Provost of Undergraduate Affairs

-This proposal has been vetted by a number of task forces, including a University Curriculum Committee (UCC) task force.

-Council reviewed the policy, which seeks to clarify and justify any double-credit counted programs and degrees.

-The proposed policy provides alignment with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges (SACS/COC) requirements.

-Dr. Brophy explained combination degrees, dual programs (where two institutions are involved), and dual degrees within UF, as well as the number of applicable and justifiable credits for each.

-Across campus, there are only approximately two joint programs.

-To provide institutional consistency, Dr. Brophy has informed and been working with academic coordinators to clarify these definitions and any needed changes, including website updates.

-The proposed policy will help to ensure that different UF programs are not using 'combined' definitions in different ways.

-SACS identifies 120 credits for undergraduate degrees and 30 credit hours for graduate degrees.

-Council inquired about and discussed when justifications may be needed for double-counted credits.

-There is a UCC approval form which is ready for such submissions/assessments.

-This item was approved.

-Required Canvas Use – Chris Hass, Associate Provost of Academic & Faculty Affairs

- Discussions are taking place to promote the use of Canvas for increased teaching continuity, particularly in the fall.
- Student feedback has suggested that faculty not using Canvas may be providing less overall communication with students.
- Associate Provost Hass seeks council and faculty feedback regarding if a minimum Canvas shell mandate should be pursued.
- Approximately 20 percent of UF courses do not use Canvas in any capacity.
- Support of such a policy would encourage UFIT to continue to build the appropriate infrastructure to support students and faculty in this space.
- Council can help narrow which pieces in Canvas should be required for faculty to use; one option is a Canvas usage requirement for the posting of syllabus, assignments, announcements, and using its gradebook, along with some other minimal amount of Canvas shell usage.
- Should courses such as 6910, 4905 courses or graduate courses be considered for such a requirement as well or would these be excluded?
- Student assignments can be posted in Canvas, which can then connect to other technology platforms, so a Canvas shell requirement would assist with providing continuity for students across UF's course management system.
- Council would like to ensure that all faculty have remote access to technology if this mandate is pursued, particularly given that this concern was expressed in the recent faculty Qualtrics survey soliciting academic feedback. It was noted that all faculty have an office computer and the ability to take it to an established remote work location.
- Council agrees that there appears to be no major roadblocks to pursuing a Canvas requirement and defining minimum faculty expectations.

-Fall re-opening

- Council briefly discussed fall re-opening considerations, including the current [American College Health Association \(ACHA\) guidelines](#).
- Student attendance requirements and test and trace were discussed. Although faculty have the right to require or not require attendance, one new [ACHA](#) recommendation is to take attendance in every class to help protect students and faculty and provide tracing. This may ultimately be a question best answered by UF Health and university epidemiologists.
- The efficiency and privacy concerns of using a tracking app were discussed, including the ability to have an automated attendance tracking system which could assist with public health issues (such as testing and tracking the virus in the population).
- Collaborating with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and giving renewed attention to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) were discussed.

-Concerns related to building occupancy and social distancing requirements were discussed.

-Requiring vs. strongly recommending policies, such as masking and testing, and messaging to increase healthy student and employee behavior were also discussed.

4. Adjournment

-The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.