

Academic Policy Council Minutes

March 16, 2016

101A Bryan Hall (Dean's Conference Room)

3:30 p.m.

Attendees

Beverly Sanders, Sue Alvers, Nicole Stedman, Hans van Oostrom, Angel Kwolek-Folland, Susan Semple-Rowland and Lauren Solberg

Call to Order

Beverly Sanders, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and the February minutes were approved.

White Paper

- Beverly distributed Welfare Council's Whitepaper on peer evaluation. Welfare Council asked that the APC review and give feedback.
 1. The APC felt that this should be a recommendation, with final decisions about how or whether to implement peer assessment of teaching to individual colleges, rather than being guidelines expected to be followed everywhere. Reason: UF is very diverse, and it would be impossible to come up with guidelines that fit every situation. Evaluating clinical faculty teaching in a clinical setting was mentioned as an example.
 2. Given the previous point, the current document is probably too detailed and specific. It could encourage colleges to adopt practices appropriate to their setting and offer best practices and list resources that colleges could draw from. Some sources of resources would be information from colleges that currently do a good job of peer assessment of teaching (e.g. CALS) and the way that online courses are evaluated.
 3. Some other remarks:
 - a. The APC appreciated explicit recognition that assessment can be done with two purposes
 - b. Assessments should only be those with poor student evaluations: everyone can do better, and excellence should be documented, too.
 - c. Information solicited for teaching awards should expect peer assessment of teaching.

The College of Engineering is currently exploring peer teaching assessment, so Welfare Council might want to trade notes with them

Kratzer Proclamation

- Nicole Stedman is working on the draft proclamation for Dr. Kratzer.

Online Instruction and shared governance

- Currently Evie Cummings has an advisory group with appointed members for UF Online. Dr. Paul Davenport, Senate Chair, asked the APC to review and recommend if there should be an advisory group for UF Online under the Senate.
- It was pointed out that there are more online courses that do not fall under UF Online.
- The Academic Policy Council decided that there should be an online instruction committee, most likely a joint committee, as part of shared governance. The suggestion is to send this to the Committee on Committees as a step toward revising the UF constitution.

Student Honor Code violations

- At the last Steering Committee meeting, Beverly passed this agenda item to Welfare Council.

Disabilities Act

- Tabled until April meeting

UF Goals

Angel Kwolek-Folland mentioned that the recent climate survey results should be available in June. Plans are to have two town hall meetings for faculty and staff to discuss the results. There will also be one in September for those who were unable to attend in June. Expectation is to have two to three action items that can be implemented within 12 months. Nicole Stedman noted that the Academic Freedom Symposium is scheduled to be held sometime in September.

The council adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.