

Academic Policy Council Minutes (DRAFT)

October 19, 2016

HPNP building Room 4233 (Dean's Conference Room)

3:30 p.m.

Attendees

Cheryl Gater (Office of the Provost) Horace Tucker, Beverly Sanders, Susan Schaffer, Lauren Solberg, Karen Whalen, Hans van Oostrom.

Absent: Angela Lindner, Paul Mueller, Brendon Jonassaint (student representative)

Recording: Susan Schaffer

Call to Order

Susan Schaffer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and the September minutes were approved with edits.

Textbook and Instructional Material Affordability Law: Cheryl Gater presented on the Textbook and Instructional Material Affordability Law that was effective July, 2016. This law pertains only to general education courses, and includes all instructional materials, not just textbooks. Major changes to the requirements are that 95% compliance is expected (instead of 90%) and book orders must be submitted 45 days prior to the first day of class (instead of 30 days). There is a new textbox that must be checked by instructors to verify that if a new edition of a formerly adopted textbook is used, it must be substantially different from the old text. Universities must report compliance to the Board of Governors every Sept 30, including cost variance between sections of \$100.00 and 20%. Only one course had a cost variance for 2016. **No action recommended.**

Syllabus Bloat: Some faculty are concerned that more and more template language is required in syllabi and this makes adherence difficult. The latest requirement is U matter We Care language. It is unclear whether just including links to published policies instead of including the policy language may violate the contractual nature of the syllabus. **Action: This will be discussed further with Angela Lindner**

Followup on 12 Day Rule, Faculty Adherence to Exam schedules/faculty adherence to religious holiday exemptions for students: deferred to November meeting due to absence of Angela Lindner.

Faculty Evaluation Question Revision: Susan Schaffer communicated with Angel Kwolet-Foland about the availability of data documenting possible lower faculty evaluation scores for large classes, required courses, and on-line courses. These data are not readily available. There are also no data to determine whether Dr. Fuch's email to students encouraging faculty evaluation enhanced student's response rate without surveying students directly. Dr. Kwolet-Foland was also asked about plans to review and possibly revise the 10 faculty evaluation questions that are currently mandated. Dr. Kwolet-Foland responded that she and Dr. Lindner thought that a joint subcommittee of SCORS and the Welfare Council might be a good place to begin the conversation. **Action: APC Committee members requested that Dr. Kwolet-Foland be invited to discuss strategies for revising the faculty evaluation questions so that we could understand the process involved and participate in the process as appropriate.**

The council adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.