

Academic Policy Council Minutes

September 21, 2016

HPNP building Room 4233 (Dean's Conference Room)

3:30 p.m.

Attendees

Angela Lindner, Nicole Stedman, Beverly Sanders, Nicole Stedman, Susan Schaffer, Lauren Solberg, Karen Whalen, Hans van Oostrom, and Caysey Griffity (observer, Undergraduate affairs).

Absent: Horace Tucker, Lauren Solberg, Paul Mueller, Sue Alvers, 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 April minutes were approved.

12 Day Rule: There is current a policy called the 12 day rule that states student athletes are permitted to be absent 12 days/semester for university sponsored athletic or extracurricular activities. A revision to this rule is proposed by Lindner since the IAC has expressed concerns about faculty nonadherence to this rule and the current wording is seen as too general. Faculty have penalized athletes in some cases by delaying student graduation and by adding the weight of a legitimately missed test to the final exam, creating unacceptable weighting on the final exam. **Action:** APC members are generally supportive of new language and minor changes to the twelve-Day Rule draft were proposed. Lindner will bring revised rule to the October meeting for further discussion.

Exam Policy: Current policy regarding course examinations and reading days was reviewed. Lindner is concerned because faculty are not adhering to policy by giving exams during designated Reading Days and by penalizing students who miss exams for religious holidays. APC council members were reminded that students need no documentation for absences due to religious holidays; these absences are excused and students cannot be penalized for missing exams during religious holidays. **Action:** APC members support Lindner sending a memo to all faculty reminding them that they cannot give exams during Reading days and that students may not be penalized for missing exams during religious holidays.

Faculty Course Evaluations: It has been determined that the 10 questions routinely used for all faculty evaluations may be altered. Data is needed to determine whether President Fuch's email to students last semester encouraging faculty evaluations improved student response rates. APC members would also like to know if larger courses, on-line courses and required courses have poorer evaluations in general than others. It was reported that Kwolett-Foland recommends a joint meeting with Faculty Welfare council to discuss faculty course evaluations. **Action:** Kwolett-Foland will be asked to provide data on course evaluations. Discussion of the need for the APC council to produce a white paper on faculty evaluation was deferred.

New Textbook law: Even though the new textbook law is not a policy, APC members would like Cheryl Gator to come to the next meeting to discuss implications of this law. **Action:** Schaffer will invite Cheryl Gator to the next APC meeting to discuss this.

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