

Academic Policy Council Annual Report for 2016-17

Council Members: Schaffer, Susan (chair), Sanders, Beverly, Solberg, Lauren, Whalen, Karen, Mueller, Paul, and Hass, Chris (replacing Cindy Prinn). Tucker, Horace and van Oostrom, Hans served as contributing committee representatives, and Kwolett-Folland, angel and Lindner, Angela served as administrative liaisons. There was a named student representative who never attended.

This annual report summarizes discussions and issues addressed by the Academic Policy Council for 2016-2017.

Student Incivility in the Classroom: APC members have initiated an exploration of student incivility in the classroom, given certain events that have occurred on campus in the past year. Faculty are unclear where legal boundaries are in terms of dealing with a student who is disruptive, but does not require either a 911 call or a referral for counseling. Individual members explored this topic within their college policies, and with the Welfare council, the Dean of Students and UF Legal and found little guidance on this topic. It is thought that it may be helpful to develop training for faculty related to this. APC will continue to explore this topic and has invited Jennifer Smith Director, Office for Faculty Development and Teaching Excellence to meet with us in September to discuss this.

Exam Policy: the APC considered several aspects of UF exam policy, it was brought to our attention by Angela Lindner that faculty were giving exams during designated "Reading Days" and were penalizing students who miss exams during religious holidays. APC supported Dr. Lindner sending reminders to faculty every semester to remind them of current exam policy.

APC also considered over multiple meetings a referral sent to Faculty Senate asking to extend the exam period by one day during fall semesters to enable faculty more grading time. Although this initially seemed to be a simple request that was brought by A. Lindner to the registrar Steve Pritts, , the APC learned that adding an exam day has effects on when student transcripts can be sent out and that this change would affect the balance of the semesters. Holding exams on Sunday is one solution that is being considered. A final response to this referral is pending.

Faculty Course Evaluation: It is generally recognized that student evaluations of faculty teaching are critical to quality education and also to the promotion and tenure of faculty, but the current 10 questions used by UF for student course evaluation no longer reflect the realities of current large class and on-line learning environments. In addition, student response rates are often poor.

It was determined that UF is not required to keep the same 10 evaluation questions and that student course evaluation questions have been changed by other Florida state universities. A. Kwolett-Folland was asked to discuss strategies for revising the faculty evaluation questions so that APC could participate in this process. Kwolett-Folland suggested that a sub-committee of SCORs and the Welfare Council be tasked with looking at this. She also provided members with sample evaluation questions used by other peer universities and by other SUF universities. She proposed a time line outlining steps and deadlines for piloting a new course evaluation process by May 2018 with a marketing campaign. The current process is a review of vendor evaluation

products that will be flexible and able to work within our CANVAS e-learning platform. Jennifer Smith is currently working with this initiative and will seek the feedback of the APC next year.

Academic Integrity Task Force: The Academic Integrity Task force originally formed in 2010 and submitted a report with recommendations to the Provost Office in 2011. However, these recommendations were never acted upon. The Academic Task Force has been reactivated under the leadership of Joel Brendemuhl who has formed another Task force to update recommendations, particularly recommendations for managing academic integrity in an on-line environment. J. Brendemuhl plans to have Task force Recommendations by early fall and will return to APC to present them.

12 Day Rule: APC heard concerns by A. Lindner that faculty were not adhering to the 12 day rule that permits students to be absent 12 days/semester for university-sponsored athletic or extracurricular events. Faculty have been assigning make-up activities that penalize students. APC was in favor of new policy language to the 12 Day Rule proposed by A. Lindner.

UF Quest Experience: C. Hass (Chair of Experiential Learning Task force 3) sought APC feedback on the learning objectives for Year 3 of the UF Quest experience. The third year focuses on experiential learning which will be a challenge for some colleges who have not done this before. APC was supportive of this initiative.

New Textbook law: Cheryl Gater presented a synopsis of **the new Textbook and Instructional Material Affordability Law**. There are new reports that have to be sent Sept. 30 to the Board of Governors to report cost variance and book orders need to be submitted 45 days prior to the first day of class instead of 30. Overall, the new law was not seen as sufficiently burdensome to require any action on the part of the APC.

Other Activity:

- APC was asked to provide a representative to serve on a Take 30 Task force headed by a. Lindner to consider data and make recommendations related to UF students achieving graduation in 4 years.