

Academic Policy Council Annual Report for 2017-18

Council Members: Schaffer, Susan (chair), Solberg, Lauren, Whalen, Karen, Sohn, Patricia, Mecholsky, Jack, van Oostrom, Hans, Reynolds, Alison, and Hass, Chris.

Kwolek-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 2017-18.

Student Incivility in the Classroom: The Council heard from Mary Kay Carodine, Assistant VP for Student Affairs regarding resources currently available to assist faculty with managing disruptive student behavior in the classroom. A document titled “Guidelines on Managing Classroom Behavior” was developed by A. Kwolek-Folland and Angela Lindner and approved by the council. This guideline was distributed to faculty via office of the Provost Faculty Update Newsletter.

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. A. Lindner will establish a consistent timeline and regularly scheduled intervals when email reminders about the UF Syllabi Policy will be reinforced to faculty.

Academic Calendar Referral: APC also considered over multiple meetings a referral sent by Faculty Senate and a request by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee asking to extend the exam period by one day during fall semesters to enable faculty more grading time and to delay start of the spring term to increase the number of days available for advising students prior to the first day of spring classes. Final recommendations to either decrease the total number of days in Fall and spring semesters or to hold final exams on Sundays were presented to Faculty Senate who voted to continue the currently approved 2020-2021 calendar.

Faculty Course Evaluation: Several members of APC participated in the Evaluation Task Force that considered evaluation package proposals from various vendors and made recommendations regarding the selection of possible new faculty evaluation questions to address changing academic environment such as on-line education. It is planned for the new evaluation system to be piloted Fall 2018.

Academic Integrity Task Force: APC heard twice from Joel Brendemuhl, who chairs this Task Force. Task Force initiatives were delayed by the discovery that both the Dean of Student’s Office and UF Online were also working to revise the student honor code. This revised student Honor Code will be presented to the Board of Trustees approval in June 2018. It is anticipated that the AI Task Force will present final recommendations to the Provost Fall 2018. J. Brendemuhl recommends that an on-going committee be formed to address academic integrity on an ongoing basis.

UF QUEST Experience: The QUEST initiative is being planned to provide students with a “signature” UF experience. The council heard from Trysh Travis (Faculty Liason to QUEST initiative) who reported that alignment and clarity has been achieved for QUEST experiences

for students in Academic years 1-4. A QUEST web presence has been established. Although utilization of current courses was originally considered, the current thinking is for new courses to be developed that will meet student needs and capitalize on faculty expertise. A full rollout of QUEST is anticipated for AY 2020-21, with QUEST 1 pilots scheduled for Spring 2019. The Good Life course will continue to be offered in QUEST year 1, but it will no longer be the only student option. A full rollout of QUEST is expected AY 2020-21.

Computer Coding as a Foreign language: At the request of faculty senate chair David Quillan, the Academic Policy council asked Gillian Lord (Spanish and Portuguese studies) to draft a resolution opposing legislation to substitute computer coding for a foreign language for university admission. APC edited the document and presented it to faculty senate where it was approved.

Bloodborne pathogens exposure: Angela Lindner consulted with APC related to the risk of undergraduate student exposure to animals and animal tissues in courses. Toby Shorin reported on the recommendations of a committee charged with examining these issues. His committee recommended the following:

- Coordinate with the General Counsel Office to reclassify risks and define exposures
- identify affected courses
- a risk assessment should be identified on course syllabuses
- require training prior to exposure and include it in course grading
- identify which courses have a potential need for a waiver signed by students
- recognize that a potential waiver requires General Counsel feedback if a student refuses to sign a waiver.

Other Activity:

Patricia Sohn was elected to serve as chair of the Academic Policy council

Respectfully submitted

Susan D. Schaffer PhD, FNP-BC
APC chair