

Academic Policy Council (APC)

Meeting Minutes 9/28/18

Minutes recorded by Patricia Sohn, APC Chair

Attendees: Patricia Sohn, Chris Hass, Hans van Oostrom, Karen Whalen, Laurie Bialosky, Jack Mecholsky, Gerry Altamirano, and Dorina Avram.

1. The meeting took place in 239 Tigert Hall.
2. The meeting was called to Order at 10:31 a.m.
3. Council Members and Liaisons were introduced.
4. APC minutes from April 17, 2018 were approved unanimously.
5. The “charge” or “responsibilities” of the APC was reviewed by members. It was noted that the APC does not weight in on the merits of candidates for administrative positions. It was agreed that this passage in the “responsibilities” refers to general policy regarding the merits of candidates for administrative positions, rather than a charge for the APC to weigh in or evaluate such candidates. It was discussed that the APC charge includes areas that affect faculty experience in the exercise of their everyday jobs in those areas that are listed under “responsibilities” on the [APC webpage](#).
6. Members were encouraged by the chair to get ideas for APC agenda items of interests from faculty in a “grassroots” manner, in addition to agenda items that come through the administration.
7. Members were asked for ideas for issues of concern that the APC might consider during academic year 2018-2019.
8. The calendar of APC meetings for Fall 2018 was reviewed.
9. Associate Provost Christopher Hass gave a presentation regarding [the new student evaluations system](#). The new system is being constructed with reference to peer institutions and best practices to make up course evaluation questions. Class size and gender bias in student evaluations was discussed. There was not gender bias. College bias was reported as greater than class-size bias. Resources for faculty for score-improvement will be available. Text analysis of written comments will be provided in new evaluations summary. Faculty members are encouraged to provide their own best story in constructing their teaching evaluations presentation for tenure and promotion purposes. That might include evaluations other than those from this course evaluations system. The website was reported as constructed but not yet circulated. On-line courses have different course evaluation questions at least in part. Faculty will have the ability to add questions from an approved question bank. No demographic data on students is available through the course evaluations system. A spring midterms pilot is anticipated.
10. Assistant Dean/Director Gerry Altamirano gave a presentation on the Disability Resource Center (DRC). A mutual interest in faculty-student relationship in the disability context was discussed. The DRC has recently shifted from a medical to a social model for supporting students with disabilities. There are over 3,000 students registered with the DRC; 83% are undergraduates; 10% are graduates; and 7% are part of professional programs. The DRC has experienced growth of registered students from 2012 to present. It was estimated that approximately 10% of

students with disabilities have not reached out for service. Disability was discussed as a social limitation that is a construct of society. The disability is real. Inequality is perpetuated by society (e.g., including social stigmas as well as material conditions, such as stairs, etc.). 70% of students registered with the DRC at the University of Florida have testing accommodations. The idea of a centralized Testing Center is being considered seriously. The Center for Teaching Excellence is involved in the construction of Universal Design Classrooms. Classroom design was discussed as an issue in which the DRC would like to be more involved. It was suggested that there be a canvassing of classrooms to evaluate the degree to which they meet Universal Design Classroom criteria. [The point regarding involvement in classroom design was raised later at the Senate Steering Committee, and appropriate contacts in this regard were sent to Assistant Dean/Director Altamirano.]

11. The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.