

ACADEMIC POLICY COUNCIL (APC) Minutes

Thursday, December 9, 2021

10:00 a.m.

135 Tigert Hall, (Student Affairs Conference Room)*

*or, if needed, via Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92995891065?pwd=NDNkNGFocjdHcXB5NW5lN2VZV1M4UT09>

Present: Richard Scholtz, David C. Bloom, Angela Lindner, Michael Fang, Paul Duncan, Andy Zimmerman, Amanda Phalin, Eleni Bozia, Angela Bacsik, Deborah Mayhew, Laurie Bialosky, Nancy Clark, and Chris Hass.

1. Call to Order – Richard Scholtz, APC Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 11:09 a.m. by APC Chair Richard Scholtz.

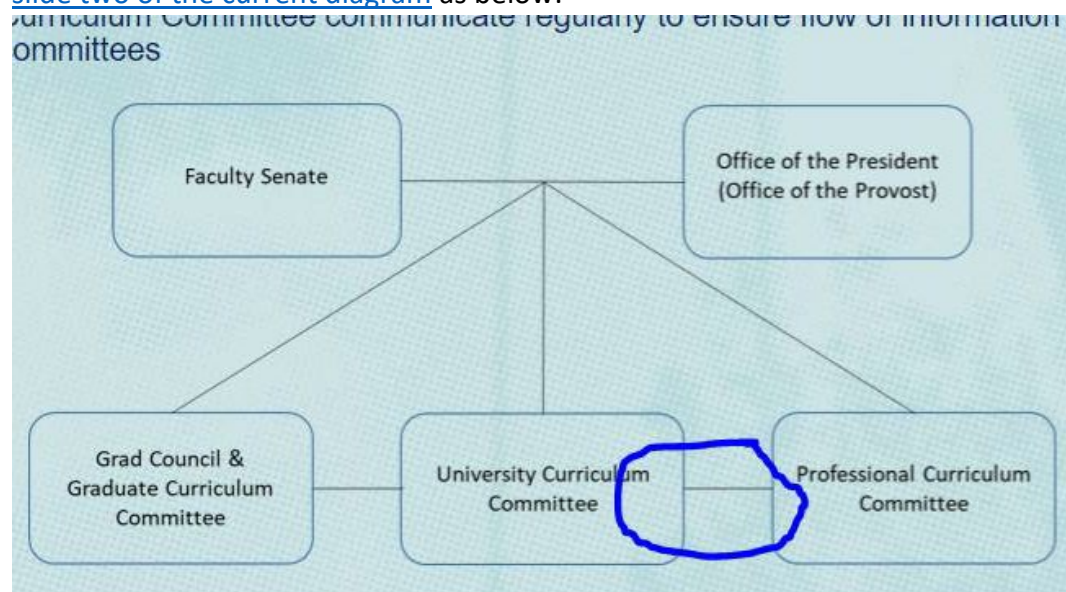
2. Approval of October 28, 2021 Minutes

- The minutes were approved.

3. New Business

- a. **Professional Curriculum Committee (PCC) Update** - Jason Nance, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development and Professor of Law
- Dr. Nance introduced the elements of a proposed new joint committee to develop and support professional curricular development in that space.
 - The colleges and professional schools have been providing feedback for several years in support of this initiative, which began an official launch in March.
 - The Graduate School, Graduate Council, and the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) have been extensively involved in proposal planning.
 - Some UF professional degree programs exist in graduate level curriculum but not in all graduate programs, so the proposed PCC aims to aid and streamline the curriculum development and approval process. Decades ago, UF (and other peer institution) models reflected that only some UF colleges would house professional degree programs. However, UF colleges which did not typically or historically offer graduate courses are now doing so, and the Graduate School fully supports the proposed PCC, which will help both the UF approval system and curriculum communication across campus.
 - This proposal aims to provide the infrastructure to address curriculum matters in UF's professional programs and degrees, especially as separate from undergraduate matters.
 - Council discussed the structure and workflow of the PCC, the UCC, Graduate Council, and Faculty Senate:

- As a joint committee, the PCC will have the same authority that the UCC has now so it will help equalize the pathways and allow a greater portion of expertise in the professional curriculum space.
- Examples of curriculum approval paths were provided: if a masters-level course is offered as part of a masters degree, it would be reviewed by the Graduate Council; if it is a masters-level course within a professional program, it would be reviewed by the PCC; if an undergraduate-level course is proposed, it would be reviewed by the UCC.
- Such paths and infrastructure will helpfully, substantially increase the conversation on the front end of the curriculum approval process between the three joint committees; regular meetings of the UCC and Graduate Council are being held/will continue to be held for all three (including the PCC) joint committees.
- It is unchanged that Faculty Senate is the final curriculum review and approval step.
- This provides a solution to addresses UF curriculum in a more profession-specific way.
- It was clarified that there is a lower volume of professional curriculum items to review, and the adequacy of the number of committee members was confirmed.
- Curriculum staff is in place now to assist in meetings' organization and facilitation.
- For example, the average number of requests this month was: three professional curriculum requests; last month was two; and above five is unusual.
- To increase clarification of the PCC's flowchart, it was agreed that the arrow pointing to 'Professional Curriculum Committee' be amended to a straight line in [slide two of the current diagram](#) as below:



- The [Professional Curriculum Committee updated slides](#) will be posted at:

<https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Pages/Academic-Policy-Council/AgendasMinutes2021-2022> and in today's minutes.

- Council discussed communication plans between the various diagram facets which allow any points of ambiguity to be clarified at the initiation of curriculum review. It was confirmed that its leaders meet regularly and transparently and that this proposed infrastructure will also ensure this moving forward, particularly as faculty elected by the Faculty Senate (and nominated by all faculty) will continue to make up about half of [joint committee memberships](#) (such as the proposed PCC, and the current UCC and Graduate Council).
- A motion to approve the proposed PCC, and suggest that the chair of each joint committee (Graduate Council, PCC, and UCC) ensure cross-communication, carried unanimously.

b. Reminder of Nominations – [APC roster](#) Updates/Reminders

- Please encourage faculty colleagues to submit this [nomination form](#) to self-nominate or nominate a colleague for Faculty-at-large membership to University [Joint Committees](#), University [Presidential Committees](#), and [Faculty Senate Committees](#). Professor Bacsik and Zimmerman's APC terms expire at the end of the Spring 2022 semester so there will be two APC openings for any interested, current Faculty Senators. Nominations close January 31.

c. Spring meeting Planning / Academic Policy Council Acting Vice-chair

- The Faculty Senate Secretary will send a poll to council members to ascertain the best 1.5-hour block to meet in next semester.
- Chair Scholtz encouraged members to contact him if interested in assisting the chair with general council business by serving as an acting Vice-chair.

d. Minimum Canvas Use – Chris Hass, Associate Provost for Academic & Faculty Affairs

- <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/docs//72///2020-2021//APC%20approved%20on%2012.07.20%20Spring%20Required%20Minimal%20Canvas%20Usage%20draft.pdf>
- In the past two years, council has a Minimum Canvas Use Policy on a semester by semester basis.
- Associate Provost Hass requests that council approve a policy for Spring 2022.
- A motion carried unanimously to approve extending the current semester policy through Spring 2022.
- Although Director of Technology Mark McCallister is aware of the policy, council is interested in obtaining an opinion and feedback from the eLearning Advisory Committee or the Faculty Senate University Information Technology Committee on making this a permanent policy. The Faculty Senate Secretary will

request that Associate Provost Hass be added to the latter's agenda.

- A standing document will then be presented to APC and then to the Senate for feedback and approval. If approved as an Action Item by the Faculty Senate, it would go into effect in the fall as a permanent minimum campus use policy.
- An inquiry was made if Director McCallister could pull data on which departments use Canvas the least. Such departments may object to a new policy if they are currently not using Canvas now, so it may be helpful to target advance communications with them.

e. Suggested Question for Gatereviews – Chris Hass, Associate Provost for Academic & Faculty Affairs

- Campus diversity liaisons several years ago suggested the addition of a question which asked 'does the professor promote an inclusive environment?'. This question has been discussed again recently in reference to the rewarding of or acknowledgment of faculty who successfully do this. While Faculty Senate had vetted and approved the Gatereview questions during its roll-out, concern has surfaced regarding how to best include such information in a P&T packet in a way which does no harm, specifically in potentially penalizing faculty who cannot codify 'being inclusive'.
- The Student Government Diversity Chair serves on the Aspire leadership team and has brought the topic forward to the CDO office because students want to recognize faculty who are inclusive.
- Council is interested in discussing if it is best to replace or tweak the current question and if it would accomplish the goal the students expect such a question to accomplish.
- Council would like to hear more information from Associate Provost Hass, and any data which John Jordi, Instructional Assessment Coordinator at the Center for Teaching Excellence, or others, may be able to provide, in a future meeting to help consider if this the most valid way of asking such a question.

4. Old Business

- a. [Attendance Policy](#)** – Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs
- Due to today's lengthy agenda and the need for faculty review and discussion on the attendance policy, it will be added to next semester's council agenda.
- b. Terminally Ill/Posthumous/In Memoriam Degree Award Policies** - Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs
- As a follow-up to the [draft policy](#) discussed at the October 28 APC meeting, Associate Provost Lindner updated council that [Mariel White](#) received her diploma last Thursday. Dr. Lindner also shared the sad news that Ms. White

passed away Saturday evening. Dr. Lindner expressed gratitude to council for their feedback and assistance.

- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS) Associate Dean Mary Watts contacted Faculty Senate Chair David Bloom to propose that Senate consider a resolution to grant a post humous promotion to [Dr. Patricia Hillard Nunn](#). He requested council's feedback.

- Currently, UF awards post humous emeritus or honorary awards, rather than posthumous promotions.

- A promotion normally carries a salary increase but it has been confirmed that this would not be the case in this instance, (nor is it being requested), should a posthumous award be granted.

- Council concurred that consideration of such a posthumous promotion needs to be independent of one person and would necessitate establishment of a policy and eligibility criteria.

- Associate Dean Watt has offered to provide all requested or needed information and materials if council is interested in pursuing this.

- Council discussed what stage Dr. Hilliard-Nunn may have been in submission of her P&T application and if that may be relevant to council's decision to consider a post humous promotion award. Associate Provost Hass confirmed that in May 2020 the university's template had been uploaded to begin work on a promotion packet and was withdrawn in August 2020 following her death in August 2020. Outside letters of support were not placed in the university's P&T system, so Associate Provost Hass is unaware if a packet was completed.

- Council discussed the option of using a hire packet in absence of a complete P&T packet, to consider a promotion but that would require additional documentation as well.

- Council suggested that CLAS may wish to consider pursuing a post humous honorary award for Dr. Hillard-Nunn but is not in favor of, and will not pursue, the development of a posthumous promotion policy.

5. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.