

ACADEMIC POLICY COUNCIL (APC) Minutes

Friday, January 21, 2022

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

239 Tigert Hall, (Provost's Conference Room)*

*or, if needed, via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96595082953?pwd=SE9UdnlkUGlpYlNGZW9aaFArM0FCdz09>

Meeting ID 965 9508 2953 Passcode 816320

Present: Richard Scholtz, Jessica Judge, Michael Fang, Angela Bacsik, Eleni Bozia, Elizabeth Wood, Paul Duncan, Amanda Phalin, Chris Hass, Angela Lindner, Andrew Zimmerman, Laurie Bialosky, and Vandana Baweja.

1. **Call to Order** – Richard Scholtz, APC Chair
 - The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by APC Chair Richard Scholtz.
2. **Approval of December 9, 2021 Minutes**
 - The minutes were approved.
3. **New Business**
 - a. **Academic Freedom** – Elizabeth Wood – APC Member
 - Council Chair Scholtz shared that the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Freedom fact-finding will continue through February. It is anticipated that faculty inquiries and concerns will be moved to the purview of the Faculty Senate's [Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations And Standards \(AFTPRS\) Committee](#). Dr. Ray Issa chairs both the Ad Hoc and the AFTPRS Committees. Council discussed that a bill is moving through the Florida legislature which could potentially restrict teaching about race and is of concern to the faculty. Faculty Senator Elizabeth Wood sought clarification on what role this council might have in addressing the topic of academic freedom in the future. It was clarified that academic freedom is included in the mission of the [Welfare Council](#): This council's area encompasses matters that support encourage, define, and evaluate the quality of the faculty and retention of faculty members, including **faculty rights** and **academic freedom**; faculty support programs, such as fringe benefit packages; faculty diversity; and programs that improve the quality of faculty life.
 - Council Chair Scholtz suggested that Faculty Senate may wish to consider passing an academic freedom resolution and the [Faculty Senate resolution webpage](#) was referenced.

- UF has not signed the [academic freedom document](#) mentioned in that council's [October 22, 2021 minutes](#) which are posted at: <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Pages/Welfare-Council/AgendasMinutes2021-2022>.
- All are welcome to participate in [this afternoon's Welfare Council meeting](#).
- Council also discussed:
 - that while the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) has a clear policy of not policing course content, faculty expertise will be required to assist in adhering to any new laws.
 - the importance of instruction being open to multiple viewpoints; student growth and learning may involve a degree of discomfort.
 - the need to teach the best quality class, regardless of a topic.
 - the teaching of course content and the need to ensure courses still address the movement of a discipline and the normal evolutionary development of course material, which does not remain static.
 - the reporting mechanism for student grievances and the need for students to know the channels and proper procedures to properly resolve a course or instructional issue.
 - the need for UF units to be mindful of, and adhere to, the recommended procedures in place, including UCC policies, and ensuring Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) are being met.
- <https://approval.ufl.edu/media/approvalufl.edu/UCC-Syllabus-Checklist.pdf>, <http://syllabus.ufl.edu>, and <https://education.ufl.edu/course-syllabi/> were referenced.
- that every department should have at least one person familiar with curriculum who collects, checks, and posts syllabi of every section.
- if there is a benefit to colleges auditing its classes. Some departments processes and procedures were discussed, including those which have assessment plans and SLOs which are contributed on an annual basis.
- that the Board of Governors (BOG) has a six-year program review which can help identify and resolve any course inconsistencies. Other degree inventory and approval requirements are made by such bodies as The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).
- that it may be helpful to invite Assistant Provost and Director, Cheryl Gator, who is responsible for additions, modifications, terminations of the university's academic degree programs and who is the liaison to the Board of Governors on such matters, to visit council.
- the potential use of Canvas to allow an AI or background search of courses with missing syllabus and/or linking in UCC syllabus requirements for departments to conduct such a search.
- syllabus listed by section vs. courseload.

- which administrative or unit level can best address any syllabus inconsistencies.
- asking departments to annually complete one metric, such as comparing the SLOs listed in its catalog as comparative to its syllabi; and another year checking its assessment tools, etc. so that each department confirms adherence to UCC policies and class requirements. Can students be involved in such a process?
- that the Office of Student Affairs and the Provost's Office have collaborated to develop a training series for student advisory councils. Approximately 30 students are being trained as policy ambassadors.
- Council requested that the Provost's Office provide a list of the most critical issues needing to be addressed and present it for discussion at an upcoming APC meeting.

4. Old Business

- a. [Attendance Policy](#) – Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs
 - Associate Provost Lindner addressed the tweaks made to the policy to address the comments and concerns which were shared by council members. The updated verbiage was discussed.
 - Council unanimously approved the updated policy.

- b. **Terminally Ill/Posthumous/In Memoriam Degree Award Policies** - Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs
 - The [October 28 draft policy](#) was reviewed.
 - Council discussed the highlighted area below:

A Degree awarded to a student experiencing terminal illness recognizes academic work completed by a student who has made progress toward completion of a degree. The Degree to a Student Experiencing Terminal Illness is a regular UF degree and is reported to the Board of Governors. Regardless of the level of the Degree, appropriate documentation must verify the student's terminally ill condition that negates any possibility for the student to continue remaining coursework. ¶

Undergraduate Degree: ¶

- → Departments should notify their college dean of a proposed degree to be awarded to a student experiencing terminal illness. ¶
- → The department will partner with the Dean of Students Office who should work closely with the student and/or family to obtain medical documentation that confirms that the student will not be able to complete their coursework for the degree because of their current terminal health condition. ¶
- → The dean's office should consult with the student's degree program to review the student's academic record. If the student has completed at least 80% of the requirements for the degree program and the majority of the degree program faculty supports the awarding of the degree, the Dean's Office should request the approval of the degree by submitting a request to the Provost. ¶
- → The dean's letter should include the degree and the term for which the student should be awarded the degree. The dean's request should include the above-mentioned medical documentation confirming the student's terminally ill condition. ¶
- → If the Provost approves the request, the college dean will be notified in writing, with a copy sent to the Office of the University Registrar. ¶

- Documentation of the student's condition is needed, and the procedures used were described, including the nuances between the undergraduate, professional, and graduate programs.

- Council will review any new faculty feedback to today's [Terminal Illness Degree Conferral January Draft](#) Policy at an upcoming APC meeting.

c. **Reminder of Nominations / Virtual Committee Open House on 1/28/22 @ 11:30**

- Please encourage colleagues to join this virtual event. View Zoom details @ <http://senate.ufl.edu/master-calendar/>

5. **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.