ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE
Monday, April 18, 2022
2:30p.m. | Campus Commons 2201
MINUTES

Present: Benedict, Couch, Franklin (Dineen), Matchett, Pullen (Han), Vaughan, Wood, Yu, Zaghlawan
Absent: Benavidez, Brewer, Kraver, Wieben
Guest: Levin

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 2:35pm.
Approval of the Agenda
Approved without objection.
Approval of the April 4, 2022 meeting minutes
Approved without objection.
Announcements/Chair's Report

Reports from Councils:
Graduate Council (Brewer) – No Report.
Liberal Arts Council (Wood) – We are finishing up year one of indirect assessment reviews. We are accepting applications for LAC direct assessment grant proposals through the end of the semester. The Division of Academic Effectiveness is inviting applications for three faculty assessment liaisons, including one for LAC assessment.
Professional Education Council (Kraver) – The State of Colorado is considering two actions that would impact UNC's many teacher candidates. House Bill 1220 would offer stipends to student teachers (all of whom pay full tuition and are not permitted outside employment during their student teaching practicum). Also, the legislature is considering alternative methods of licensing educators that include a combination of test scores and academic performance (e.g., GPA or a portfolio).
Undergraduate Council (Dineen) – We have recommendations for creating an S/U grading option under new business. Next year's UGC officers are Marilyn Welsh for chair and Phil Klein for vice-chair.
Student Senate (Benavidez) – No Report.

Special Reports

Unfinished Business

Permanent S/U Grading Policy

- On behalf of UGC, Dineen presented a recommendation for the creation of an S/U grading option for undergraduate students.
- The rationale for offering an S/U grading option is to encourage students to explore courses without fear of negatively impacting their GPAs.
- Policy recommendations include:
  - Making the S/U grading option available to all unde2 ( )]TJ [(S)-0.2 Tw [(leod0 .ge)6(to)2 unde2 ur

    - Limiting the total number of credits eligible for S/U to fifteen, and limiting the maximum number of courses scheduled as S/U per semester to two
    - Prohibiting the S/U grading option for letter graded courses being repeated, unless a grade of “W” was recorded
    - Prohibiting the S/U grading option for courses being re-taken for grade replacement
  - The recommendation also includes notices to students to work closely with the Office of Financial Aid, CIE, Veteran Services, Student-Athlete Academic Success Center, academic/faculty advisor, academic success coordinator, etc. (as applicable) to ensure students are making informed choices about how selecting S/U may impact them.

DISCUSSION:

  - The “S+” grade is equivalent to a “C-” or higher, which is the minimum grade needed for transfer of gtP courses.
    - Members discussed whether to redefine “S+”, “S”, and “U”.
    - Perhaps “S” could be “C-” or higher, which would make “U” equivalent to a “D” or lower.
    - However, “D” would otherwise be considered earned credit, whereas “U” is not.
  - Members discussed allowing academic units to stipulate whether to accept/allow S/U grading in their programs.
    - Perhaps units could stipulate what courses of theirs would be excluded from being taken as S/U [illegible]

        - Maybe once the major is declared, students could petition/apply to have the S/U grade of a required course converted to the letter grade.
    - Rather than being used for exploration, students may use the S/U grading option for 'hard' classes, which may set them up for difficulty in subsequent courses.
    - UNC is unique in Colorado in not having an S/U grading option. The policies of other Colorado institutions tend to be succinct and include warnings/cautions to seek advisement.
    - Some institutions allow the S/U selection to occur much later in the semester, even after a final grade is posted.
        - Think about the rationale and purpose of creating an S/U grading option.
        - Maybe students can freely explore by taking a course with the regular letter grade and decide by the withdrawal deadline whether to select the S/U grading option.
        - This might reduce the stress of having to choose S/U ahead of time and having to anticipate academic performance.
        - Setting the deadline to match the withdrawal deadline might reduce the number of students who want to change their S/U selection, as students would have the benefit of knowing where they stand in a course (for instance, what their grade is like and whether they want to declare the major) before they select S/U.
    - Couch can ask Registrar colleagues at other institutions for data about their S/U grading options.
    - The committee will continue deliberation into next year.

Enrollment Status/Intensive English Program

- Couch presented revised narrative language that incorporates previous feedback; CIE approved of the language as presented.
- IEP references have been removed from the tables as IEP courses are not credit bearing courses.
- IEP students with F1 or J1 visas are required to register as full-time students and are considered full-time if enrolled in 18 classroom hours per week.

MOTION: Vaughan – It is moved to approve the languagn04 (erutime)6(5.:e)6(n04 ((IEo)Tj/)-4 ( )]TJ-25.83t S)-7(tTj/

- The committee recommended adding the phrase “and must fulfill all program requirements” to the end of the proposed sentence.
- Couch agreed with the recommendation.

MOTION: Vaughan – It is moved to approve the language as amended and send it to Codification with the intent to send the proposal to Senate on 5/2.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

Officer elections

- APC Chair: Vaughan nominated Levin, and Levin accepted the nomination.
- APC Vice-Chair: Vaughan nominated Benedict, and Benedict accepted the nomination.
- The slate of nominees was approved by acclamation.

Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51pm.

Angela Vaughan
Chair

Betsy Kienitz
Recording Secretary