

Curricular Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2016, 1-2:00 pm

Present: Ken Abramowicz, Casey Byrne, Jennie Carroll, Alex Fitts, Claire Gelvin-Smith; Cathy Hanks; Cindy Hardy, Eileen Harney, Jayne Harvie, Joan Hornig, Ginny Kinne, (Zoom), Rainer Newberry, Caty Oehring, Patrick Plattet

Absent: Mike Earnest, Doug Goering, Jenny Liu, Lisa Lunn, Holly Sherouse

Guests for Athletics discussion: Gary Gray, Dani Sheppard, Andrea Schmidt

1. Approval/Amendment of Agenda

The meeting was convened by Joan and Rainer on behalf of Jennie who had an overlapping appointment.

Joan, who needed to leave early, talked about the grade appeals policy. See notes at 3.b. below.

The Athletics discussion was moved up for discussion after Joan left and Jennie arrived to continue chairing the meeting. See notes at 4.a. below.

2. Approval of minutes

- a. Draft Minutes 03/30/2016 – Minutes were not yet available for review.

3. Old Business

- a. Communication Plans

In addition to tweaking the deadline of the original motion already passed by Senate, some clarification of language pertaining to academic years was also made. Point 5 of the timeline in the motion, concerning the visibility of O and W designators in the Catalog, was changed from “two years” to “through the AY2019-20 Catalog.”

Issues with the change-over to communication plans from existing O and W courses were discussed. Jennie gave the example of what will be occurring in the RD program. Petitions will help address some of the situations that will come up. The Core Review Committee (to become the GER Committee) may also have to be more flexible concerning these situations as they occur during the transition period. Once communication plans are turned in to the Provost’s Office, and a clearer picture emerges with what is happening to O and W courses, CAC may need to revisit this again in the fall.

b. Grade Appeals Policy Subcommittee update

Joan recapped the changes that have been by the subcommittee made to the UAF policy to bring it in compliance with the UA regulations. Some edits to the motion were discussed which also fix some typos and clarify the timeline. She wants to send it to General Counsel for review and hopes it will go to the May 2 Faculty Senate. The committee noted some old terminology that needs to be updated within the document (e.g., “MAU” and “judicial officer”), and some corrections (e.g., 6.b.2. language regarding advocates). A cleaned up copy of the document is still needed. Whether or not it really needs to go to General Counsel or not was also discussed,

particularly in light of the fact that the effort is to bring it into compliance with existing regulation. The consensus was that it could still go to Senate and a review by General Counsel could follow. Further corrections, if needed, could be taken care of in the fall.

The new form and guidelines that have been developed apart from the policy updates, should help to reduce the number of grade appeals, as well as help students understand the process and initiate it properly. The form and guidelines will be available on the OAR web site when completed.

4. New Business

a. Discussion re: rules regarding athletics and students.

i. Guests: Dani Shephard, Gary Gray, and Andrea Schmidt

Rainer provided some background to the past CAC discussions about Athletics. Faculty concerns mainly involve the length of student absences from classes due to the travel schedules of athletic teams. The ability for students to both work on school and have study time during their absences were discussed. Informing faculty sooner about travel schedules was discussed. Possible solutions to address these concerns were discussed at length. Dr. Gray also shared that Athletics is part of the Phase 0 review in the Strategic Pathways process, and shared some information regarding their funding and revenue generation for the community. Many changes are potentially in store for them between now and the fall semester.

The meeting was adjourned after 2:30 PM.