

Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee
Minutes—January 24, 2019

Present (voting): Wendy Cook, Jackie Krause, Dan Lipori, Andy Piascek, Josh Welsh, Ke Zhong

Present (non-voting): Eric Foch, Gail Mackin, Walter Szeliga

Absent (voting): Janet Finke, Megan Matheson

Absent (non-voting): Lindsey Brown, Julia Stringfellow

Guests: Amy Claridge, Rose Spodobalski-Brower, Dawn Varnum

Meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. Minutes of January 10, 2019 were approved as amended.

Chair updates

Lindsey has taken a job at the University of Idaho and will be leaving on March 1. The registrar representative for AAC still needs to be determined.

UFC is looking at the UNIV 101 graduation requirement to determine how advisors who teach UNIV 101 should be paid.

Old Business

- a. Revise CWUP 5-90-40(39) to include international students

This policy went through Provost Council and Faculty Senate. Concerns were raised about exceptions to the policy language. Not all students can complete assessments at orientations (e.g. international students; transfer students without a DTA). Provost Council requested changes to the policy language to allow international students the first quarter complete the assessments. The concern is that students may be admitted before the orientation sessions but may not be able to attend the sessions.

Changes to CWUR 2-90-040(39) were approved.

Reorganization Policy

This was initially a charge given to AAC in 2012 or 2013 from the president. AAC worked on it for quite a while and came up with a new policy: 5-90-060 Creation & Reorganization of Academic Units. The policy was stopped before it got to the provost's level. Essentially the concerns were not about the content of the policy but where it would be housed. Some deans and associate provosts at the time had concerns because the policy would be housed under academic affairs, and administration would not be able to make amendments. Last year AAC tried again to pass the policy by putting the language into the faculty code at the president's suggestion. The code covers consultation so this would be in the purview of the code. Bylaws & Faculty Code Committee worked on it, and Faculty Senate approved that language last year. Provost Council wrote a statement to the BOT asking that the language not be voted on; EC wrote a statement asking for it to be voted. The BOT did not vote on the language and said the

two sides need to negotiate the issue. Amy, and Walter and Mary from BFCC, are meeting with the president next week.

We now have a new version of the policy language, which is a compromised document to address the concerns. The new language would allow anyone, including administrators, to bring proposals to Faculty Senate and bypass AAC. This will not likely be well-received by faculty. There was also talk of having a new section of policy that is owned by both faculty and administration and either side can propose changes.

Because there are some concerns from administration that something could come to this AAC and be shut down or be stopped with a pocket veto from the committee, Amy requested feedback from AAC on the new policy language. One thing AAC does is make sure that policy language works. If policy completely bypasses the committee, it might move forward to Faculty Senate without the best language. Then any editing or changes would have to be made on the Senate floor. One suggestion was made to go back to the original plan where the policy is under 5-90. Committee members like the wording of the original 5-90-060 policy. If this is done, then some language will need to be added to address who has the authority to initiate a change. There will also need to be some flexibility to accommodate AAC's existing charges. Amy will take feedback to next week's meeting with BFCC members and the president.

New Business

a. New Committee Charge – Credit/No credit policy

Walter discussed a new charge from EC addressing the credit/no credit policy. The existing policy language allows students to convert a course to credit/no credit only through the change of schedule period. UW allows changes up to the seventh week. EC is charging the committee to consider changing the existing policy language to give students more time to convert a course if they need to. The changes are proposed because converting to credit/no-credit allows students to stay in the course and doesn't affect their GPA or financial aid eligibility, whereas withdrawing from a course typically does. However, major or minor courses cannot be declared credit/no credit. A student who is taking all major courses would have to change once course to credit/no credit and then repeat it later. Students can only take up to twenty credit/no credit courses toward degree requirements

CWUP 5-90-040(17)(G) was changed to read:

Students must designate a course as credit/no credit by the end of the 7th week of instruction. For students enrolling in 6-9 week courses credit no credit must withdraw by the withdrawal deadline. Intensive courses whose dates do not correspond to the dates which they are scheduled must have specific withdrawal deadlines.

All changes approved.

b. Non-Attendance policy

To be discussed at next meeting

c. Final Exam Schedule Revisions (Charge 18-19.16)

Recently Faculty Senate brought forward a concern about changing the final exam schedule from two hours to one hour and fifty minutes, to include a passing time of ten minutes. However, that doesn't work for all departments because some have specific regulations to meet. Academic Scheduling hasn't received complaints from students or instructors, but this is a big problem for faculty.

Faculty Senate asked AAC to look at other schedule options. One suggestion is to have half-hour passing periods. It might be necessary to consult with the registrar's office to think of other solutions. Specific language needs to be added to policy to indicate how the schedule should be followed when there are exceptions such as oral exams. The provost's office agrees with this as long as there is documentation that some sort of exam took place.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Next Meeting:

February 14, 2019, 3:30 p.m.

Barge 304