

Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee Minutes—Nov. 21, 2019

Present (voting): Eric Foch, Jackie Krause, Dan Lipori, Megan Matheson, Andy Piascek, Josh Welsh, Ke Zhong

Present (non-voting): David Douglas, Gail Mackin, Rose Spodobalski-Brower, Julia Stringfellow

Absent (voting): Wendy Cook

Absent (non-voting): None

Guests: Ethan Bergman, Dennis Francois, Brian McGladrey

Meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. Minutes of November 7, 2019 were approved as written.

Chair Updates

AAC had no policies on the agenda for the November Faculty Senate meeting. A few AAC policies will be going forward to Faculty Senate on the December agenda.

Old Business

a. Class Attendance Policy & University-Sponsored Events – Discussion with representatives from PESHM and Athletics

Ethan Bergman and Brian McGladrey from PESHM, and Dennis Francois, director of Athletics, attended to address concerns about the Class Attendance policy. Current wording in the policy does not require faculty to allow students to make up work missed during absences for university-sponsored events. This mostly affects Athletics, but it can also potentially impact music, drama, ROTC, student government, and student clubs. For Athletics, the greatest impacts occur in spring quarter because of softball and baseball. Winter quarter is affected as well with basketball, but the effects in fall quarter, due to football, tend to be lesser.

PESHM and Athletics would like to see changes to the current policy language so that allowances for excused absences and/or accommodations are required. Student athletes typically have high GPAs, so they can be negatively affected by having to miss class and not being able to make up the work. Athletics also tries to emphasize success in the classroom, and most faculty are understanding. Student athletes are given priority for registration, especially in spring for fall quarter. Student athletes also receive letters to give to their professors addressing schedules for practices and games, and are encouraged to communicate in advance. However, some departments are stricter than others. There are eleven schools in GNAC; about half of those are similar to CWU. Others have different policies or expectations on attendance. However, the schools that are in similar situations with bussing and travel times might have similar policies.

Brian met with EC last year and discussed changing the policy language. PESHM did a study last spring with student athletes, ROTC, and faculty. Thirty-six faculty and students participated so the qualitative data is more useful than the quantitative data. Brian spoke with EC again last month and

presented the survey data. EC suggested that changing the word “expected” to “required” in the policy might be a sufficient way of addressing the ongoing concerns.

A common theme in the survey responses seems to be that faculty would like to see notice provided ahead of time. Student athletes are expected to provide professors with a schedule within the first week of class whenever possible. Although schedules of practices and/or games are known when each academic quarter begins, they are subject to change. One suggestion from AAC is to create a form for student athletes to provide professors within the first week of class providing the necessary information and also stating that the schedule is subject to change. This approach would put some responsibility on the student to communicate with the professor.

The attendance policy is an official charge from EC this year, so AAC will consider the recommendations from PESHM and Athletics when reviewing the policy. Further research needs to be done in order to look at policies from peer institutions for comparison. Some research into allowances required for military service may need to be explored as well.

b. Charge 04: IP and Incomplete Grades in relation to Financial Aid

EC reviewed the changes AAC made last time and suggested some minor changes. AAC made some additional changes:

CWUR 2-90-40(26)(A) – change to read “Courses for which an IP grade is intended must be submitted to and approved by the Registrar.”

CWUR 2-90-40(26)(C), add “to an appropriately earned grade.”

Changes were approved.

c. Charge 06: Graduate Studies policies

Questions arose regarding CWUP 5-130-40(4), and CWUP 5-130-40(1). AAC suggested striking “accredited” in CWUP 5-130-40(3) & (9). The policy will be returned to Kevin for clarification.

Other proposed changes:

- In CWUP 5-130-050(1), strike the second sentence.

- In CWUP 5-130-060(1), strike 500 and 501 in the first sentence; change 400 to “400-level”

Proposed changes were approved.

5. New Business

a. Charge 14: Class Attendance Policy

To be discussed at a future meeting.

b. Charge 07: Commencement Participation

To be discussed at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Next Meeting:

January 9, 2020

Barge 304