

Meeting Minutes

Present: Andy Piacsek (chair), Josh Welsh, Wendy Cook, Melody Madlem, Eric Foch, Bob Hickey, Taralynn Petrites

Absent: Teneccia Dacass,

Ex Officio: Cody Stoddard (ADCO), Jason Knirck (Provost's Office), Rose Spodobalski-Brower (Registrar)

Absent: Julia Stringfellow (EC).

1. Meeting called to order at [3:09 pm]
2. No Changes to agenda
3. Approval of Minutes

Approved. [Welsh] made motion, [Cook] seconded. Hickey Abstained

4. Chair report

- Follow up with Michael Goerger and Mark Samples about AA degree policy. Clarification on role of AAC: We are being asked to provide feedback on proposed policy language, but we do not vote on it. This is the purview of Curriculum Committee.

5. Old Business

Charge 11: Advise on new AA degree. Prepare a statement for Curriculum Committee.

Discussion

- Clarification on role of the committee – committee is told non-voting (consultation) role
- Bob: procedural question – needs to be approved by the state – why are we doing something that may not be approved by the state?
- Ediz: approval needs to happen at CWU before approval at the state level
- Bob: If this is a 'yes', then language needs to match intent of the policy and may require re-write/adjustments (e.g., disconnects between intent vs. written language will default in the future to written language)
- Goerger: Curriculum committee is the one to make decisions about who issues the degree. Simply mirrors language in other degrees
- Bob: this isn't the same as other degrees – should not mirror

- Wendy: isn't there a policy where curriculum/programs need to exist within a department? (e.g., programs must be located within an academic department). Rose followed up with 5-90-060 (as a response to Wendy's question)
- Andy: Is the office of undergraduate studies going to be administering this degree?
- Michael: not the practice of OUS
- Committee: This needs to be clarified whether the AA degree is housed within an academic unit
- Bob: is this policy functionally creating an academic unit?
- Ediz: this is about one specific program and just that
- Melody: not sure we want to give the authority to Undergraduate Studies academic program status – which is what is being done with this action
- Bob: putting a degree in a unit that hasn't offered a unit before is a reorganization/creation of an academic unit. This needs to be examined in light of the reorganization policy. This is a potential violation of 5-90-060
- Andy summarizes the concern: either this policy lets existing units offer an AA degree (not the intent) vs. only one entity offering an AA degree, which is not an academic unit (or this bestows academic unit status via function).
- Bob: policy on creation of a new academic unit – this needs to be followed (e.g., this action may violate the process of consultation)
- Andy: this is a call for Curriculum Committee – but we can point this issue out.
- Wendy: the example case that was provided (university) offered AA degrees. Isn't this quite a different situation?
- Michael: Community Colleges are offering BAS degrees.
- Wendy: Highline created their BAS – and are pushing their own degrees
- Mel to Ediz: Do you think this will help with minority student retention – what is the thinking on this?
- Ediz: higher proportion of underrepresented students leave CWU without a degree. Goals of AA degree are to improve retention and bring back individuals who have credits but do not have degrees. This is not designed to be a first-choice degree.
- Taralynn: I'm concerned that if some students start with AA this could provide an off-ramp for them to go to other institutions to complete 4-year degree.
- Ediz: That is not the intent of the degree. The target is students who left and didn't get a degree (idea is bring them back)
- Andy: So we are not advertising the degree. How will this be handled in academic advising?
- Bob: still skeptical of the program. Students will find out about the program and students will know. If we want to increase retention – advising is really the area to focus on.

- Taralynn Need to increase connection with faculty and advising – not just add another degree
- Michael: Could allow a pathway for someone to come back for (for some students)
- Josh: Has heard some stories of people who the AA was the turning point for further academic success. For some of these people AA was “most important degree”
- Cody: Concern that had come from some bench sciences about the classes students take early may not easily be included as easily as students starting in all general education.
- Bob: Possibility that this AA degree could encourage students to gravitate towards general education earlier (rather than be attached to a specific major) which may not be a particularly good retention tactic. Closer connection with departments may be a better retention method.
- Wendy: Is this an AA degree to help retain 1st to 2nd year? Is that the effort here?
- Ediz: not just 1-2 year.
- Michael: running start students – keeping them engaged with central after they finish central. CWU has the largest population of running start in the state. This could benefit those students.
- *Guests Leave*
- Bob: wants to really point out the process (reorganization policy) and the lack of connection between the justification and goals (no close nexus between the two). In short, justification is not to the rigor of what other programs would be asked to do.

Charge 6: Expedited acceptance of Gen Ed credits for students transferring from recently closed colleges. Revise policy as needed and vote.

Discussion

- Rose: This policy is a guessing game – we don’t know what schools are going to close. If it is a school that we don’t have any relationship/history with – this is
- Andy: we could punt on the charge – for these reasons.
- Wendy: Didn’t the Chair of General Education indicate this policy didn’t make a lot of sense – prior practice is going to be able to handle this situation.
- Rose: this doesn’t happen often – hence, we probably don’t need the policy
- Bob: So, this is unneeded policy
- Josh: We want to avoid creating things in policy that are difficult to implement.
- Rose: seems that we already have policy that would govern most situations that would occur. Additionally, there may be a conflict with 5-90-30(g) – this could create a conflict or potentially override. (e.g., is this proposed policy needed)
- Andy: happy to write up a note to faculty senate saying “after consultation with GE, it does not seem this is recommended policy”

- Unanimous vote to Andy's above point: draft up note to faculty senate saying "after consultation with General Education, the AAC does not recommend the creation of this policy"

6. New Business

- none

8. Adjournment

Mel/Wendy move to adjourn [unanimous] [4:18pm]

Next Meeting: March 9