

Agenda
Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee
Sept. 28, 2017 – 3:30 p.m.
Barge 304

Present: Rodney Bransdorfer, Clem Ehoff, Janet Finke, Christos Graikos, Dan Lipori, David Martin, Ke Zhong, Lindsey Brown, Tim Englund, Julia Stringfellow, Walter Szelgia

Absent: None

Guests: Cody Stoddard

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m.
Minutes of May 25, 2017 were approved.

Chair Updates

Committee members introduced themselves.

Guests from the Provost's office occasionally will be attending AAC meeting to help with getting things passed through Provost Council more quickly.

Old Business

a. CWUP 5-090-50

Dan reported that the AAC initially made some changes to this policy last spring but it still needs to vote. After reviewing the charges for the current year, it looks like this is related to charge 4.

In the new (D), number 1, we are changing the number of credits from 75 to 45. Lindsey did some calculations to determine how many students this change would help. David questioned the change to 45 credits, as that seems too low – it's only one year or three quarters of classes. Rodney agreed; students should be established here for a while in order to earn honors. Tim explained that the policy originally required 75 credits but that posed a problem for transfer students who didn't meet that requirement by winter quarter when honors are calculated.

Lindsey suggested adding another zero to 4.00 (making it 4.000) to match the rest of the GPAs in the policy.

Rodney moved to approve the policy as amended; Julia seconded.

Changes to CWUP 5-090-50 were approved with a vote of five aye, one nay, and one abstention.

New Business

a. Committee Charges

The 2017-18 Committee Charges were discussed.

Charge 17-18.01: UNIV 101 as part of degree requirements - Initially talked about this charge last spring. The issue is whether or not UNIV 101 should be part of the new Gen Ed redesign. AAC did not feel that it should be, but thought parts of it should still be required, possibly as graduation requirements. Lindsey was going to work on writing a proposal.

Charge 17-18.02: Foreign language requirement in Gen Ed – Need to consider whether or not the wording of the foreign language requirement in the new Gen Ed program should be revised. This may involve looking at high school requirements.

Charge 17-18.03: Review and draft changes to Interdisciplinary Programs policy – Last year AAC started drafting a policy and met with directors of the other committee, but got little feedback after incorporating their initial suggestions; after that the policy stalled at Senate. There is another group the Provost started, but it seems separate from the group so need to make sure there is no overlap between them.

Charge 17-18.04: Academic honors with focus on transfer students – AAC worked on a draft last year and it is under Old Business for today’s meeting.

Charge 17-18.05: GPA definitions and standardize language – This charge partly relates to the honors policy (Charge 04). AAC made changes to the GPAs in the honors policy by adding three decimal places so GPAs should now be standardized to three decimal places throughout policy.

Charge 17-18.06: Changes to academic appeals policy/procedure – Cody explained that the current appeals process states that a professor’s action must be “arbitrary and capricious.” Provost Council has some concerns. The main issue here is looking at the language in this particular clause and considering whether or not it should be divided to become “arbitrary *or* capricious” as opposed to “arbitrary *and* capricious.”

Charge 17-18.07: Academic freedom definition – Cody explained that this came up in conversation about the attendance and participation policy; Dan indicated it comes up in AAC approximately every two years. Some departments are willing to make exceptions for missed classes due to university events, but others are not. The AAC felt that making changes to the attendance policy violated academic freedom, but the provost asked for a definition. Finding a strong definition of academic freedom is very difficult. Dan looked but couldn’t find one; most of what he did find was citing policy from the 1940s. Tim suggested that the provost is thinking of being able to talk about controversial issues in class without retaliation, rather than how you might teach the class, so we use different wording than “academic freedom.” Cody added that it’s an issue of what you can teach vs. how you can teach. Lindsey added that having “academic freedom” defined is a NW requirement, so we need to have it somewhere.

Charge 17-18.08: Need for policy/procedure on mandatory feedback – Cody explained that this issue came up over the summer. One of the deans received feedback that a student received no feedback from a professor until the end of the course so they had no way to know how they were doing and if they should drop. Should there be a policy about this sort of thing?

Charge 17-18.09: Standard ADA statement for all syllabi on campus – The AAC worked on this last year after being asked to create a sample disability statement. Cody indicated that the objection is with the language “such as” in the diversity statement. The Syllabi policy with the diversity and sample disability statement passed at UPAC but they want to see more.

Charge 17-18.10: Mandated standards in all syllabi for diversity and classroom behavior – this

charge is related to Charge 9.

Charge 17-18.11: Revisions to warning/probation/suspension policy/procedure – AAC worked on this a couple years ago. Lindsey indicated that it got stuck at UPAC and was sent back. Some changes were going to be made but that hasn't happened yet.

Charge 17-18.12: Final Exam policy – AAC discussed this last year. The provost sent out a campus-wide email in spring with some additional clarification. Enforcing the policy is a problem. Cody added that more clarification is needed as to what is meant by "final exam." Do projects, papers, and things submitted online count? The policy needs to be clear for faculty if administration were to enforce it.

Charge 17-18.13: Modifications to class attendance and participation – Justifications must be given if no modifications are made.

Dan discussed some additional charges for the committee to take on as time permits:

- Related to class attendance, missed classes for weather, etc. Last year the provost sent an email about including something in policy. Main question is how missed days should be made up, and should students and faculty be forced to do that. Cody added that it could become an issue related to the number of required instructional days per quarter, especially in winter quarter which is shorter. If AAC doesn't do something with this, then it could end up in administration's code and faculty would no longer have any say in it.

- Danielle Neal brought up an issue last year regarding the lack of a set policy on plagiarism. This would be a good policy to have. Tim added that the our suggested plagiarism statement is based on something from the RCW and uses "may" in regard to self-plagiarism and students can use that in their favor.

- Last year AAC made changes to the course substitution policy and those changes passed through Senate and other necessary channels. The policy is now in effect, but a new course substitution form had to be created to match the language we changed in the policy. Within a week of the new form there have been complaints. Lindsey added that faculty are complaining about the "justification of course substitution" box. Dan pointed out that we are creating policy but we don't create the form to go with the policies. If a form is needed, should we have a part in making sure the form fits with what we create?

- The Reorganization of Academic Units policy is stuck in limbo. The biggest issue is where this policy should be housed. AAC would like it in 5-90 but administration wants it in their policies. Cody indicated that the Executive Committee can take on the conversation regarding placement issues; the content of the policy is still for AAC to discuss.

Deadlines have been given for when work on charges needs to be completed. Dan suggested prioritizing or dividing things up to get started.

- Lindsey has a starting point for comparing the UNIV 101 goals/objectives with those of the new Gen Ed program (Charge 01).

- Rodney will talk to Michael Johnson and get something started about the foreign language requirement (Charge 02).

- Consultation with directors of interdisciplinary programs is needed for work on the Interdisciplinary Program policy; also need to find out of the other Provost's Council group is

still active. Dan will look into this and will contact the program directors and see about setting up a meeting later in Fall (Charge 03).

- Charge 04 was taken care of as part of today's old business.

- Julia will look through policy for where GPA definitions need to be standardized (Charge 05).

- David will look into the language of the academic appeals process (Charge 06).

- Janet, Clem, and Julia will look into academic freedom and implications; this should include some research into other universities' definitions and/or statements; AAUP as well (Charge 07)

- ADA and Diversity (Charge 09) – Dan indicated that this could be as simple as changing “such as”; Cody suggested directing to a specific campus webpage that will not change

Next meeting – will look at Charges 1, 2, 9, and 10. Dan will have an update on the interdisciplinary programs policy; Julia may have found something about GPA definitions.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

**Next Meeting:
Oct. 12, 2017**