

CAL College Curriculum Committee

Notes: March 24, 2011 – 3:15 – 321 Linton

In attendance: Dunn (AAH), Ahmed (FCI), Friedman (L&L), Rauscher (PHL), Van Wieren (REL), Barr (THR), Blythe (WRAC), Franzen (Grad Student Rep), Campbell (Undgrd Student Rep), Hoppenstand (UCC Rep), Swenson (Assoc Dean), Roraback (Dean's Office), Judge (Dean's Office)

1. Approval of the Agenda

APPROVED

2. Chair Comments (Blythe)

Blythe asked for a report on the results of online voting on ESL courses.

Swenson noted that the proposed course changes passed in online voting by 7-0 with a simple majority voting. She explained the need for an accelerated voting process on the ESL course changes. The changes had been requested at the University level in order to allow more accurate tracking of student progress and needed to be quickly implemented to take effect in the next academic year. Swenson also noted the need to revisit the rules regarding quorum procedures in order to clarify the number of votes needed for motions to pass.

3. Associate Dean Comments (Swenson)

Swenson noted the focus for the meeting on policies the covering Academic Freedom Report (AFR) which is part of the written contract between students and MSU. It has gone through a major overhaul and all colleges and departments need to change their academic hearings procedures to conform to new policy. Members of the CCC should confer with their department chairs to ensure that the departments are working on reviewing and conforming to AFR policy. Work at the departmental level should be completed by the end of semester or very soon after. Beth Judge of CAL Undergraduate Affairs is working on this topic and can answer questions from departments and from the CCC.

4. UCC Updates (Hoppenstand)

Hoppenstand noted that all programmatic changes from CAL passed at the last UCC meeting.

Hoppenstand also reported on the discussion at UCC concerning a proposal to change the name of the RCAH BA degree to the BA in Art & Humanities. Hoppenstand expressed the concerns of CAL faculty and administration at the UCC meeting, especially that the name change would be confusing to students. A full discussion of the issues took place within the UCC meeting. Hoppenstand called for the motion to be tabled until after further discussion between the Deans of the RCAH and CAL. His motion was passed by the UCC.

5. Teacher Education Council Updates (Swenson)

An online vote was taken which passed a new History Education BA, a James Madison BA, and Mathematics BA.

6. Curricular requests* - None

None

7. Vote to Adopt:

(Academic Freedom Report)

Judge and Swenson have reviewed new grievance procedures and compared them to the earlier version of the College Grievance Hearing Procedures. Improvements include a less confusing numbering system and shift toward more straightforward language. Judge provided clarification of several areas in the new AFR that may be confusing. The areas included sections on violations of student rights, academic grievances vs. disciplinary hearings, and the issue of where plagiarism complaints are heard.

Judge defined important terminology:

Grievance Hearing: Entails students initiating action against faculty or administrators for violation of their rights (e.g., violations of syllabus policies, accusations of religious or political bias).

Disciplinary Hearing: Entails faculty members bringing charges forward when they believe a student has done something wrong and may need to be disciplined (e.g., falsified application materials, extreme cases of plagiarism, etc.).

Swenson drew attention to changes in the College Academic Hearing Procedures in IIA designed to clarify language which defines the pool and composition of the College Hearing Board. A friendly amendment was offered to the provision concerning the pool for the Board to include the members of the College Curriculum Committee and the College Advisory Committee.

Judge noted that plagiarism cases are now taken to the Provost' office for resolution.

Discussion of Section 5 on Hearing Procedures focused on the case in which a respondent does not appear. Currently the board may postpone, hear the case, or dismiss the case for cause. This language is in the AFR so would need Board of Trustee approval to change. Swenson agreed to challenge the reasoning under this section.

Judge noted the importance of keeping graduate and undergraduate protocols separate in departmental policy statements.

Swenson noted that no cases of plagiarism have come up for approximately a year and emphasized that penalty grades for academic misconduct must be reported though the online form on the Registrar's web site.

8. Adjourning Meeting

ADJOURNED