

Academic Policy Council
Minutes
October 18, 2006
3:00-5:00 PM
202 Tigert Hall

Attendees:

Luise White
Anita Spring
Ken Gerhardt
Donna Duckworth

Guests:

Lynn Frazier
Steve Pritz
Danaya Wright

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM

Steve Willis was selected to serve as a representative to the University Curriculum Committee. He will attend the UCC meetings to represent the APC and report back to the council.

Bologna Process

Lynn Frazier briefly discussed the Bologna process. Ken Gerhardt noted that he is working with AAUP schools on the issue and is a member of a statewide committee of graduate school deans who are also working on this issue.

The question that needs to be answered about the Bologna process is: How does the university deal with three-year degrees? UFIC is concerned that, because the Website states that UF requires a 4-year degree, qualified students with three-year degrees may not apply. Dr. Gerhardt is pursuing how to word the online stated requirements better. There are certain restrictions by the Board of Governors regarding what is acceptable.

Another question is how will the US universities at the graduate level adapt the changed undergraduate model that does not have general education in it? The main issue is determining what constitutes a bachelor's degree or an 'equivalent' degree.

The council will develop a list of questions to help move the discussion to practical recommendations.

Some questions are:

1. Should all universities in the state address this issue together?
2. Should all departments address this issue together or make admission decisions individually, as is done by some universities?
3. Should professional programs be included in the discussion?

Dr. Gerhardt also noted that the University needs information about the quality of the institution that confers these degrees, before determining if UF will recognize a student's degree.

Danaya Wright suggested that the Graduate Council make recommendations to the APC that will look at those recommendations on a university wide level before the issue goes to the senate.

There is no timeframe on the issue because the deadline is 2010.

Strategic Work Plan

The APC will invite Dr. Machen to attend the November meeting to discuss the strategic work plan.

Ideas presented by Dr. Wright are:

1. Have a brief, abstract plan and allow links to how programs will accomplish those plans.
2. Create a long-range planning committee to assemble every 2-3 years to revise and rethink the long-range plan.
3. Leave the Strategic Work Plan as the APC's project, and have faculty members send recommendations, and the APC will decide whether or not they are appropriate.

The council will consider recommending a long-range planning committee and look into what other universities do.

Minus Grades

Steve Pritz provided the council with information about what peer institutions do in terms of minus grades. Key points are that almost all peer schools have them and implemented minus grades at the same time as plus grades.

Steve Pritz will survey the Florida SUS schools to determine what systems they use in order to compare to the data on AAU schools, already collected.

Donna Duckworth moved to recommend to the Senate “to adopt minus grades with a symmetric configuration without readjusting previous grade point averages.”

The start date will at the beginning of an academic year, for all students and classes. That date will be noted on transcripts, and go forward; previous grade point equivalents will not be changed. It was noted that professors are not required to use either plus grades (that are already approved) or minus grades.

The council adjourned at 5:03 PM.