

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Friday, September 27, 2013, 2:30-3:30

Hyde 349

Attending: Kerry Yurewicz, Deb Tobine, Roxana Wright, David Zehr, Christin Chenard, Stephanie Halter, Jamie Hannon, Roger Blake, George Gilmore

AGENDA

- I. Approval of September 16, 2013 minutes (see attachment):
Minutes were approved by mutual consent, with a change in Friday meeting time as 2:30-3:30 pm.

- II. Academic Minor Policy proposed revision (see below) (David)
Proposed revision clarifies some of the previous language; encourages students to take more courses in a minor to achieve breadth of knowledge beyond a major; may encourage departments or colleges to revisit minors; may be problematic for disciplines with 4 credits courses and an issue of students' value versus university value and standards.

Amendment: change "at least nine credits" to "at least eight credits" to accommodate programs with 4 credits courses.

Motion approved unanimously with the amendment above.

- III. Six Week Grades (David)
*Discussion only: might it be a good idea to require submission of 6 weeks grades for all students?
The system could be improved in terms of how the grades are communicated to advisors.
Cons: Upper level courses may be project- based, without enough assignments suitable for 6 weeks grades; current policy is signaling students to be responsible for the progress of their degree.
Pros: 6 weeks grades are a good retention tool; upper classmen would benefit from receiving feedback just as much as students with fewer credits do; not all faculty use Moodle gradebook.
An idea could be a different set of assessment rather than grades: "actively involved", "making good progress", etc.- may not be sufficient feedback to students.*

David will present a formal motion in the next meeting for discussion. George will provide supporting information to David for the motion.

- IV. Attendance Policy (David)
Discussion only: Requiring faculty to take attendance in all classes. It will still be up to the faculty how attendance is used for grading. David will send some literature on best practices, software packages, etc. The item will be on a future agenda.

- V. Meeting dates regarding two of the fourth Fridays (see Friday dates below)
- VI. Old Business (anything from the issues discussed last meeting?)
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment
Occurred at 3:45 pm.

Other: *Roxana Wright will be the scribe for the committee.*

Meeting dates for Fall 2013:

Monday October 21, 2013 3:45-5:15pm

Friday October 25, 2013 2:30-3:30pm

Monday November 18, 2013 3:45-5:15pm

Friday November 22, 2013 2:30-3:30pm (I will be out of town)

Monday December 16, 2013 3:45-5:15

All meeting for fall 2013 are in Hyde 349.

1. Dates for Academic Probation and Severance:

- 1/7/2014 Probation advisories – Center Lodge, Granite Room.
- 1/17/2014 Severance appeals – Center Lodge, Granite Room.