

Curricular Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes for 8 October 2012

Voting members present: Rainer Newberry (chair); Ken Abramowicz; Sarah Hardy; Cindy Hardy; Todd Radenbaugh; Diane McEachern (audio); Retchenda George-Bettisworth (audio).

Non-voting members present: Alex Fitts; Doug Goering; Carol Gering; Linda Hapsmith (audio); Donald Crocker; Libby Eddy; Lillian Misel. Jayne Harvie present (taking notes).

1. Approve minutes of last meeting

Rainer's minutes for the Sept. 24 CAC meeting were approved as submitted.

2. GERC-related issues

a. J Rosenberg call in at ~ 9:15 for brief report

b. new GERC business as required (?)

Jonathan shared that the poll should be ready to go out to all faculty on or about October 15. GERC members ran a pilot poll and received good feedback. The poll will gather information on basics, including the minimum number of credits for the core, the "fit" of the current core with the approved student learning outcomes; functionality of the current core; among other issues. Each question will be followed with a field to collect comments.

Both Alex and Jonathan provided reports about the two information sessions that were held with faculty. It was evident from these that faculty did not really know much about the new student learning outcomes passed by Faculty Senate.

3. Report on Wintermester conflict resolution (maybe)

a. 2013-2014: Wintermester faculty were polled and agreed to 9 or 10 days (can choose) including an extra Saturday.

Crisis solved.

b. 2014-2015 has 8 days between HARD CLOSURE & the first day of classes. .

c. 2015-2016 has 8 days between HARD CLOSURE & the first day of classes ***THE SUBCOMMITTEE has been CHARGED TO FIND SOLUTIONS THAT DON'T INVOLVE CLASSES DURING THE HARD WINTER CLOSURE. We (the subcommittee) will be meeting in person with Wintermester faculty to discuss the 2014-2016 problems and find some resolution....before next year.***

Discussion will be ongoing in the subcommittee to address future year problems with Wintermester and the academic calendar.

Cindy H. noted that the Interior Aleutians Campus offers compressed courses for students who come from out of town

Suggested modification: You must notify your instructor(s) of all scheduled UAF-required absences for the semester (e.g., travel to athletic events) by the first Wednesday of the semester.

There was much discussion about the suggested modification. The first Friday of the semester was preferred over the first Wednesday, so that students had more time to drop / add courses.

The lack of available tutoring for student athletes was also of much concern, especially because the university was requiring their absence from class.

b. Yet to be solved....the whole issues of 'excused' vs. 'unexcused' absences. Given that a faculty member *IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE ANYTHING* to students with excused absences....what's the point?? How do we reconcile the problems athletic absences?? See next page: 'one suggested version of attendance policy...'

Discussion of Item #4 will continue at the next meeting.

5. Suggested change to Syllabus policy....(from Curricular Review Committee):

“If the course includes project(s), include general project description(s) and evaluation methods (e.g., rubric)”
EXCERPT FROM SYLLABUS REQUIREMENTS [included in the agenda]... unclear—is this required? Does it need to go through the Faculty Senate?

Discussion concerned item #10 of the syllabus requirements which addresses how students will be evaluated in a course. Wording could be added here to specify that if a project constitutes 20% or more of the course grade, then an evaluation