

Curricular Affairs Committee

DRAFT Meeting Minutes for 10 Sept. 2012 (with attachments)

Voting Members present: Ken Abramowicz; Karen Gustafson; Cindy Hardy; Sarah Hardy; David Henry; Rainer Newberry (convener); Todd Radenbaugh (audio).

Voting Members absent: Retchenda George; Bettisworth; Diane McEachern.

Non-voting members present: Donald Crocker; Libby Eddy; Doug Goeling; Hapsmith; Lillian Misel; Andrea (lastname?) from Advising.

Non-voting members absent: Carol Gering; Ginnie Kne. Jayne Harvie present to take notes.

1. Elect a chairperson

Rainer Newberry noted that earlier in the year he had emailed the membership, asking if anyone would be willing to chair so he could take on the chairship of the General Ed Revitalization subcommittee of CAC. No one has stepped forward. He offered another opportunity, but no takers. Rainer was unanimously approved to chair

a member of the Student Academic Development and Achievement Committee on the GARC concurred that this was a good suggestion and would be acted upon.

Rainer reported that the action plan had been examined and approved by Faculty Senate leadership, Dean's Council, and the Chancellor. The Chancellor will mention the project in his convocation tomorrow.

With regard to the position of Dean of University Studies mentioned in the action plan, if this position would replace the existing dean of general studies. Rainer provided some history on general studies (which concerns students who have not yet declared majors) and noted that the new position of dean would preside over "university studies": the baccalaureate core and all related requirements for graduation (i.e., "W" and "O" courses). The long-term position would not be a vice provost. Alex Fitts, now interim vice provost (and former GARC chair) has general studies along with university studies as part of her assignment, without the accreditation piece.

Ken A. expressed concerns over just rubberstamping the action plan. He noted several items of concern on the action plan particularly II.e. which is both time-consuming and involves talking to new students who are unfamiliar with the core. He noted that speaking with juniors and seniors would make more sense because they understand what the core means. Rainer agrees this item could be taken out and that there were many details of the action plan that could be further discussed. But he stressed the overall need to approve the overall concept of the plan so the committee could move forward and approach all the faculty. The details would be refined further down the road. CAC members agreed that the overall concept of

overall GPA below 2.0. A student might be on probation for two semesters, but with a GPA above 2.0 they would not be disqualified.

A discussion occurred about this change being a correction to the existing Catalog because of a "cut and paste" error made last year that shows in the printed Catalog. The online addendum is correct and in line with current practice.

Donald asked about how financial aid is affected for summer. Libby will check on that.

The need for academic advising in the summer session was noted. Dean Goering noted seeing some bad examples resulting from students not being advised about the summer courses. Everyone seemed to agree the ramifications of this change needs to be addressed by further discussion, and that the Summer Sessions fee should be included (as far as it affects degree-seeking students).

Rainer proposed carrying on this discussion to the next meeting and that financial aid and other ramifications (e.g., being put on probation at the end of the summer; advising and registration issues) be looked into further between now and the next meeting. Libby will look into the financial aid issues.

5. Calendar revision for AY 2013-2014

Proposed change: grades required by TUESDAY NOON Dec 24 instead of the usual Wednesday noon (Dec 25). This would give the AR folks a bit of a holiday...

Rainer described the need to amend the 2013 academic calendar because the due date for grades would fall on a holiday or the day after a holiday if left unchanged. The problems affect faculty and staff. He suggested the committee approve a change to that semester so that the due date would be December 24. The committee agreed that the due date should not be delayed because it adversely affects students, as well as faculty and staff.

Libby E. brought up the problem of Wintermester dates during AY 14. There is not enough time to hold Wintermester between Jan. 2 and the first day of spring semester classes. The problem was acknowledged by Rainer, but more time is needed to solve it. A subcommittee will be specifically examining it. Mid-October would be optimistic for having this problem resolved. Libby will let Marketing know they need to wait on this one before they can publish the calendar.

Ken A. noted problems with Maymester in the past and with when spring semester starts (before or after Alaska Civil Rights Day). This problem is different in that it affects the period of hard closure. Cindy H. asked about holding class on Saturdays and Rainer responded with one potential solution.

6. Proposed modification of excused absence policy (Catalog pg. 49)

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7. Proposed modification of absence notification (Catalog, pg. 49)

Current: You must notify your instructor(s) of all scheduled UAF-required absences for the semester (e.g., travel to athletic events) during the first week of classes.

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 end of the second week of classes (the deadline for late registration).

Note: the above is apparently what happens now, in violation of the catalog. But should it be further changed????? (Reference the copy of Sine Anahita's memo which was attached to the agenda).

Ken A. asked the committee to strongly consider not changing the notification by the student to the instructor to the second week of classes, but instead it should remain notification to the instructor on the first day of class. The second week can bring students too close to the drop date and create more problems for both students and instructors. Rainer stressed the need for the committee members to look this over for the next meeting.

Karen G. noted that the first day of class for individual courses can vary.

Rainer requested the committee members have at least one sleepless night considering the issues at hand and come prepared for more discussion. He also suggested that online discussion could occur on these issues. He will try to get Athletics involved in the discussion with the committee.

8. OLD business that will be rearing its ugly Head.....Wintermester and etc.

(This item was rolled into the academic calendar discussion earlier in the meeting.)

Meeting was adjourned shortly after 10:00 AM.

GERC action plan: an effort to Engage faculty, students, administration in curricular reform in order to generate well integrated general education + major curriculum

I. Request formation of a new Academic Structure, headed by a full-time 'Dean of University Studies'

a. This person would have the full time job of inspiring, advocating for, leading, supervising, assessing....courses that are part of the University Studies program.

b. This person would play a vital role in making 'University Studies' at UAF something the faculty and students would be proud of.... and would serve as a recruiting tool

II. Campus-wide discussion

- a. Starts with email to faculty articulating a new philosophy of gen ed. and stating "we will be conducting a poll in Oct." Publish materials on the web and in Sun Star and Cornerstone. Finally, we will hold a series of discussion meetings to more fully engage the university community in this process. These will be done on a school/college basis.
- b. Chancellor will announce (and promote!) such in his Convocation address to Faculty
- c. Individual deans will announce (and promote!) such in their Convocation Addresses and they will pass out the referendum (again).
- d. There will be at least one UA esse

6. Should an upper-division oral communication component (akin to an O) continue to be required for baccalaureate degrees?
7. Should students from schools outside of UA be allowed similar in transfer of 'core' courses as students from UA? (Every UA student is guaranteed that if the student has taken a core course applicable to one MAU it is applicable to the core for all MAUs).

IV. Initiate discussion with departments and colleges about curricular ideas, suggestions, and learning outcomes

- a. Distributed as follows (with consultation with other departments and colleges) : 15
Credits of 'humanities and social sciences' = College of Liberal Arts (CLA); 10 credits of science/quantification = College of Nat Sci & Math; 6 credits of written communication' = English and Library; 3 credits of Oral communication = Comm dept.

b. The General.st(n)18deuwrnd Tc -0.009 T0.28

Memo

To: Jordan Titus, chair of Sociology
Anita Hartmann, interim dean of CLA
Dani Sheppard, faculty liaison to Athletics
Kristina Giddings, Associate Athletic Director
Jennifer Reynolds, President of UAF Faculty Senate
David Valentine, President Elect of UAF Faculty Senate

From: Sine Anahita, associate professor of Sociology
sine.anahita@alaska.edu

Re: student athlete issues

Date: May 7, 2012

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to request assistance in resolving long-standing issues concerning student athletes. Issues occurred this semester that are emblematic of the ongoing problem with the way UAF treats our athletes. Issues

Content of The Form

There are several problems with the content of The Form. I attach a Form that I received this past spring that is particularly problematic. Please note these problems:

- the letter is not dated
- the name of the team is left blank
- the name of the student is not highlighted instead all of the team

Besides