**Educational Policy Committee**

**September 5, 2018**

**Minutes**

**Committee Members Attending:** Watkins, Webb, Lotto, Zhang, Hoelscher, Gunter, Bodzin, Elronich, Wesson (ex officio).

**Committee Members Absent:** Liu (RCEAS), Li (RCEAS).

**Guests:** Jensen, Wilson, Zalatan, Szczepanski, Tonkay, Bell.

The Committee chair called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes of the last meeting from Spring 2018. The minutes were approved without objection.

One of the graduate student representatives, Ahmed Elroukh, introduced himself. He is a doctoral student in economics.

The chair, Todd Watkins, provided an update about the implications of the Faculty Senate. Frank Gunter, a senator, provided additional information. Some committees will be eliminated, but Ed Pol will not be eliminated.

The committee began review of R&P revisions.

3**.2.4 Roster of Studies**

 The committee considered language to modify 3.2.4, the number of credit hours allowed for undergraduates without SOS approval. If half-credits are allowed, what happens for 17.5 credits?

The committee discussed common practice, which allowed first year students to register up to 18 credits even though R&P specifies up to 17 credits for first year students.

The committee discussed the pros and cons of different credit limits based on GPA; R&P currently provides these distinctions. Should first year students be allowed to take 18 credits without SOS approval? For many years, Banner was set for all students at an 18 credit hour maximum. For the last two years, first semester students have been limited to 17 credit hours.

After discussion, the consensus was to leave the limit at 17 for first semester students. The consensus was also to leave the 2.5 GPA restrictions as they are already written in R&P.

The chair, Todd Watkins, edited the text of the language. (The edited language was distributed by the chair via email on September 6.)

The committee discussed language that an undergraduate “may only take any 400-level course for which he or she is qualified,” and then detailing the process. The consensus was that this could be replaced by a general sentence that no undergraduate may take graduate courses without the appropriate department and college approvals.

**3.8.4 Drop/Add Period**

The committee discussed whether the withdrawal deadline should be moved from the 11th week to the 12th week. This issue was placed on the agenda by the Standing of Students Committee, which was seeking guidance on how to treat drop petitions that are submitted shortly after the W deadline.

The change from the 11th week to the 12th week would allow students to receive more feedback from graded exams given during 4 o’clock exam periods. Should students have this extra week, with potentially more information? Some committee members argued that this would help students who are trying to do well and don’t want to give up if not needed. Other committee members argued that this would hurt students who will keep trying in a course they should drop, when they should concentrate on other courses; and that an extension allows students to stay in a course for another week allows students who know they are going to drop the course and want to stay in courses to remain a full-time students, stay eligible for activities, etc. Other committee members cautioned that these are exceptional cases, and policy should be written for the typical student.

After considerable discussion, the committee took a “straw poll” on the change, which was a split vote. After additional discussion, the motion to change the deadline to the 12th week was tabled.

The chair asked the SOS members to, as they are moving forward, consider whether they need or want more guidance, and to report back if that committee felt that this needs to be taken off the table and reconsidered.

**Course and Curriculum Subcommittee and Online Learning Committee assignments**

After discussion, the chair indicated that C&C reps will be Todd Watkins, Ed Lotto, and if Yaling Liu agrees (he is absent), he could be the representative from the Rossin College.

Al Bodzin will serve on the Online Learning Committee, should this committee continue.