

Ed Pol Minutes, 2/26/2020

Williams 351, 3:00-4:20 PM

Attendees: Ed Webb (Chair); Frank Gunter (COB); Katrina Zalatan (COB); Ginny McSwain (CAS); Linda Bell (RAS); Susan Szczepanski (CAS); Greg Tonkay (RCEAS); Tiffany Li (RCEAS); Ed Lotto (CAS); Tong Soon Lee (CAS); Zach Vinik (student, COB); Evan Chansky (student, RCEAS); Julia Adamson (student, CAS); Mary Beth Deily (COB); Steven Wilson (secretary).

1. Approve minutes from 2/12/20.

Approved with amendments (spelling).

2. Brief discussion of formative assessment by students.

Webb led general discussion strategies of communication to (and feedback from) faculty. Webb will draft letter to faculty (create examples of possible questions), and will revisit proposal at a future meeting.

3. Discussion of common hour exam language from ASA (R&P 3.7.2; see pre-read).

Webb opened brief discussion of language from ASA committee. Wilson (registrar) expressed his opinion that proposal appears to complicate the issue of common exams, by reviving a faculty oversight committee, rather than reducing potential conflicts. Also, raised possibility of standardized schedule for common exams as well as finals (based on day/time of course). General discussion by members. Webb will invite Prof. Pearson (ASA chair) to attend future meeting. Wilson will draft final exam proposal for a future meeting.

4. Scholastic probation proposal (R&P 3.10.1; see pre-read).

Gunter led general discussion of proposal. Various members suggested clarifications. E.g., is this proper balance of time at Lehigh vs. total hours earned? Should there be more allowance for variations for grade point cutoffs? Should rules of “progress” be based on expected 4, 5, or 6 years (i.e., what is basis for Lehigh’s expectation for progress)?

Discussion of review/advising practices, esp. variations between colleges. Discussion of student behavior that may lead to assessment of lack of progress (such as repeated courses, or under-enrollment).

Bell and other members of SOS described usual practices for applying probation/drop rules, including financial aid rules tied to continued good academic standing.

Chansky (student rep) suggested clarifications/revisions to included chart and description.

Overall discussion focused primarily on impact of early, automatic probation on first-year students, esp. athletes. Webb suggested “scholastic warning” for first-year students, rather than probation, might be more appropriate to purpose of correcting problematic behaviors.

Webb will bring requested data (from OIRSA) on impact to a future meeting. Gunter will prepare a revised proposal based on discussion, and will revisit issue at a future meeting.

5. Round 2: clarification of procedures for changing catalog year. [Jensen, Wilson]

Time did not permit discussion.

6. AP transfer credit policy proposed changes. [Wilson]

Time did not permit discussion.

7. Academic standing policy proposal. [Jensen, Wilson]

Time did not permit discussion.

8. Round 2: proposal for policy on interrupted final exams. [Guest: Brian Chen, CSE]

Time did not permit discussion.

9. Update on the following items (all carried forward from prior meetings). [Webb]

Time did not permit discussion.

- “clear written policy” regarding excuses from exams due to athletic competitions
- the Student Senate proposal to, “allow a minimum of a week’s worth of classes to be excused from every class (for example, a MW class would allow a student to miss 2 total classes without penalty); any absence beyond this would be at the professor’s discretion.”

10. How many credentials (i.e. majors, minors, and certificates) should a student be permitted to earn?
[RAS]

Time did not permit discussion.

Deferred items will be carried forward for future meetings.

Adjourned at 4:20.