

**Ed Pol Minutes 10/30/2019**  
UC 409, 3:10-4:30 PM

**Attendees: Ed Webb (Chair); Frank Gunter (COB); Mary Beth Deily (COB); Ginny McSwain (CAS); Susan Szczepanski (CAS); Tong Soon Lee (CAS); Ed Lotto (CAS); Lori McClaind (DOS); Al Bodzin (COE); Kadia Hylton-Fraser (COE); Zach Vinik (COB); Jennifer Jensen (Provost's office); Steven Wilson (secretary).**

1. Approve minutes from 10/16/19

**Minutes accepted with two corrections (name spellings)**

2. Report from Chair on Common Exams. (Webb)

**Faculty Senate will have first reading of proposal at Nov. 1 meeting. Current approach is to abandon common exams, on motion within Senate. EdPol members, aside from position on exams, expressed general concerns about “top-down” process. Specifically, major R&P change contemplated without following committee structure to develop precise language.**

3. Discussion on formative student assessment (Webb; item carried forward from April 17 meeting).

Quoted from the April 17, 2019 meeting minutes:

“Discussion centered on who could provide such a tool, and how students and faculty could use it. It would be important that the feedback be used strictly for formative purposes. Could colleges create and administer a formative evaluation to all faculty? No—limited bandwidth. Could the Office of Institutional Research and Strategic Analytics? Probably not—wrong stem. Perhaps, the consensus was, a simpler process might be e.g. a brief centralized form (in Coursesite, available within each course?) that students could use at any point—akin to a similar Coursesite form used in the College of Education, or the online form for exam policy violation reports that the Office of Registration and Academic Services recently developed in response to student senate and EdPol directives last year—or encouraging faculty to collect formative feedback through an in-class, hand-written mechanism.”

**Discussion of wisdom and worth of creating this tool. Opinions of faculty members mixed: would welcome constructive criticism, would worry that most comment from anonymous students would be hurtful, even “un-constructive.” Student reps would support tool, but worry that students would not use effectively, or at all, if comments were not anonymous.**

**Options for system (as in quoted text, above) further discussed. Student reps report that CompSci courses currently use such a tool (Piazza).**

**Proposals for approach were brainstormed, including: Pilot program for select courses; opt-in comments according to faculty; and, rather than electronic tool, “old-fashioned” periodic face-to-face review sessions (as part of class). Chair will review technical possibilities with LTS, and report back to EdPol at a future meeting.**

4. Discuss creation of a “clear written policy” regarding excuses from exams due to athletic competitions (Webb; item carried forward from April 17 meeting).

Quoted from the April 17, 2019 meeting minutes:

“The committee recognized that there was low hanging fruit in terms of establishing and communicating expectations, norms and standard procedures that could help improve fair and

equitable treatment across students and across faculty and reduce tensions for students. The committee resolved to consider ways to improve procedures and agreed to combine this request with an upcoming discussion next fall coming from the Faculty Senate about attendance policies and class scheduling.”

**Discussion. Mixed opinions of creation a uniform, university policy. Faculty would prefer to have flexibility and policy developed specifically for their own courses. Current practice is for Athletic managers to proctor, as possible and appropriate. Student reps concerned that not all sports treated equal. Chair will draft possible language for policy for future discussion.**

5. Discuss 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.”
  - Cannot violate federal credit hour regulations
  - Relates to broader concepts of missing class, class meetings outside of the regularly scheduled course period (passed to Ed Pol by Fac. Senate Academic Affairs Subcommittee)

**Discussion. Faculty reps were against setting such a minimum, citing both Middle States rules and, to a lesser extent, what might be called a “moral hazard” for students. Mixed opinions of creation a uniform, university policy. Faculty would prefer to have flexibility and policy developed specifically for their own courses. Student reps suggested standardized rule would assist students in making decisions. Chair will draft possible language for policy for future discussion.**

6. (Time permitting) Discuss proposal on requirements for good academic standing. (Webb, McClaind)

**Time did not permit. Tabled and carried forward.**