

Educational Policy Committee Minutes Sept 12, 2024

Williams 351

Attendance: Kelly Austin, Linda Bell, , Michael Dills-Allen, Lori McClaind, Joanna Mishtal, Lucy Napper, Fathima Wakeel, Terry Ann Jones, Angela Brown

Zoom: Nandini Deo, Henry Odi, Tom Hammond, Andreea Kiss, Paolo Bocchini, Derick Brown, Naomi Rothman, Yue Yu, Ahmed Rahman, Wenyan Feng, Michael Gusmano

1. Approval of September 12 minutes (attached)
 - Correct Terry Ann Jones' name spelling in minutes. Approved.
2. Update on Ed Pol committee membership
 - 2 grad reps Stacy from COE and Wenyan Feng from CAS
 - Round of introductions
3. Update on revision verbiage for R&P 3.14.5.1 (Apprentice teaching)
 - Fathima submitted the revision using the new Faculty Senate format which highlights what is new and how it matters.
 - Available as an attachment.
 - Will get first reading Oct 4 in the Faculty Senate.
4. Discussion and vote of revision for R&P 3.11.2 (Departmental Honors)
 - Can access it on Coursesite. Came up with rationale to delete language as it is determined at departmental level.
 - Will change numbering unless as Michael Dills-Allen. suggests, we just leave the numbers and say "Section deleted".
 - Adding to rationale that Ed Policy strongly supports Departmental Honors but R&P is not where we believe they should be defined.
 - Comfort with voting in favor unanimously.
 - Approved
5. Updates on C&C subcommittee meeting dates: Oct 2, Nov 4, and Dec 2
 - All colleges should know this.
 - Kelly mentions that additional dates can be added.
 - Michael Dills-Allen says he should be added to C&C
 - Currently has all associate deans unless others want to volunteer.
 - Faculty Senate asked us to discuss the composition of C&C
 - Senate would like to see more non-admin faculty on C&C
 - Kelly says it is a challenge to get people to run for the committees in the absence of good representatives.
 - Will come back to this
6. Discussion about allowable graded work during last five days of class (Terry-Ann Jones)
 - Terry-Ann hears from students that they have assignments due in the last five days. So we need clarity on what the policy includes and excludes.

- Faculty may not have clarity on this
 - Wants to hear why classes do this
 - One committee member says in lieu of exams when there are papers or presentations it makes sense to have them due that last week.
 - Another committee member says many courses culminate in an oral presentation of a final project in the last week of class. That is the deliverable.
 - We have weekly homeworks but those homeworks are good for students.
 - Terry Ann said students sometimes want to just study for exams and not have assignments the same week as exams even if they are meant to support study prep unless they are optional.
 - Could say it is ok in a class with no exams. Or if they are worth less than 5% of grade.
 - One committee member points out that it could lead to more final presentations and students could have multiple finals in a day. Which also eats into contact hours in terms of accreditation requirements
 - Another committee member points out that all the work is not supposed to happen at the end, it should be spread out over the semester.
 - Rule read out again. No quizzes or exams totalling more than 5% of the grade can be given in the last 5 days of class.
 - One committee member says this doesn't apply to presentations. Only quizzes and exams.
 - Terry Ann Jones says this needs to be enforced. More publicity. And make clear to students it doesn't include presentations.
 - Michael Dills-Allen. also hears complaints. Especially from labs which can't have exams.
 - Linda - add some wording to R&P to make it clear as it comes up every year.
 - One committee member points out that new faculty may not be aware.
 - Another committee member suggests sending reminders out along with syllabus statements so faculty know it when they are designing their courses.
 - 3.7.1 Language revision "Papers, presentation and other graded assignments are allowed" will be prepped for next time by Fathima.
 - One committee member says this is happening because people want more time to cover everything.
 - Terry Ann says mostly people just don't know. Greater awareness needed.
 - Having all papers due on one day could be a problem says another committee member.
 - Others say they know the deadlines all semester and can do their time management.
7. Check in with committee working on policies relating to 4+1 programs (Michael Dills-Allen)
- No update this time
8. Updates/potential topics for discussion from Faculty Senate
- Consider revising R&P 1.3.2.1 (Educational Policy Committee) – tenure requirement; outdated language
 - 1.3.2.1 This version is the one being submitted to BOT by Faculty Senate
 - Continuing from last time, the 2nd para mentions our oversight of International Affairs Office seems like outdated language before OISS grew capacity
 - Linda provides some context.

- Looks like we can delete that para because it is no longer relevant to functioning of study abroad and Ed Pol
- Third para is key difference to GRC. Deans are not members and Associate members can't vote in GRC.
- Should we keep the tenure requirement?
- One committee member says tenured requirement is a way of making sure faculty on committee are familiar with programs over the years. And because of frequent meetings and workload, it is better to protect untenured faculty from this time commitment.
- We have associate profs who don't have tenure because COH is so small.
- One committee member says College of Ed is really small and restrictions shrink the pool of faculty who could serve. Since Provost and Deans are in the room, experience may not be as critical.
- One committee member adds that we should protect untenured faculty from excessive service. Even at Associate level.
- One committee member suggests that Deans could make an exception to the tenure requirement as needed in consultation with Dept Chairs.
- One committee member says it might be a moot point but if our Strategy is focused on Research productivity, then we must protect junior faculty from arduous service.
- One committee member says he hears concern that people are overburdened disproportionately. But he likes flexibility for smaller colleges. Full Profs have greater ability to say no.
- We are already violating the rule. Let's not make it easier. In case of need the rule does get bent.
- Leave it as it is?
- Suggestions made to add language assuming Chairs can act as a check on Deans. Approval from Dean, Provost, and Chair for exceptions.
- One committee member says he doesn't think we should put the new language in. Short-term problems in one new College shouldn't guide policy making.
- Could we state clearly that Assistant Profs should be protected.
- Terry Ann Jones says it is unlikely to have Dean, Provost and Chair who are all not looking out for Junior faculty
- Individual must be tenure track faculty because not all colleges let TAF vote on curriculum
- One committee member says the more he thinks about it the more, he thinks we should not add anything. This is the most relevant committee of the faculty and there are people who will be on it. Need better incentives to distribute load.
- Michael Dills-Allen how do faculty see this committee?
- Terry Ann Jones says they see it as very time consuming. Not everyone realizes how important it is.
- A committee member points out that Chairs say this committee is not a good one. We need to talk to Chairs about its significance.
- Why does it mean twice a month?

- We need these to keep up with the work. And gives a chance to have robust discussion to be ready for the Faculty Senate which only meets once a month. GRC also meets twice a month
- We don't have a consensus so might need to table this. Anything else that needs revision?
- Members of the faculty instead of teaching faculty.
- Is not allowing a voting delegate also a barrier to joining the committee?
- Add provost representative instead of just provost.
- One committee member clarified that we understand there may need to be some exceptions for tenured members for CoEd, but we don't want to introduce language. What if we say College of Ed can bend the rule but no one else can. Assistants also may not be right for the committee because there is a principal-agent problem that they may not stay at this institution.
- Can follow up on this in the next meeting?
- Say one undergrad from each college and one representing the intercollege programs be non voting members of the committee. Ideally the IC delegate should rotate between the programs each year.

Will finish this and come to other topics next time.

- Language makes it seem like Ed Pol chooses own Chair Elect. But actually it rotates among colleges and the Chair Elect should be identified at the last meeting of the Spring term.
- Table rest of this.
- We should talk about if Deans should have votes on the committee as well.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15.

Minutes prepared by Nandini Deo