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Academic Policies Committee Minutes of the Academic Senate 2013-02-20

University of Dayton. Academic Policies Committee

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Minutes of the Academic Policies Committee of the Academic Senate
February 20, 2013
KU 222

Present: Jim Dunne, Kurt Mosser, Laura Leming, Leno Pedrotti, John White

Absent: Paul Benson, Deb Bickford, Paul Bobrowski, Vinod Jain, Karen Swisher, Paul Vanderburgh

Guests: Colleen Gallagher, Kathryn Kinnucan-Welsch

Minutes: Minutes of the February 8 2013 meeting of the APC were approved.

Announcements: The next meeting of the APC will be on Friday, March 8 in SC 106 from 2-3 pm.

New Business:

TESOL Certificate

A proposal to initiate an undergraduate certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) was reviewed. Colleen Gallagher (Director of the proposed program) and Kathryn Kinnucan-Welsch (Associate Dean for Undergraduate Learning and Community Partnerships in the School of Education and Allied Professions) were in attendance. This 13 credit-hour undergraduate certificate proposal is linked to a 13 credit-hour TESOL graduate certificate and an 18 credit-hour TESOL graduate endorsement program. Leno Pedrotti pointed out that there is no Senate policy governing undergraduate certificates; there is a Senate policy (DOC 07-03) that governs the development of graduate certificates. DOC 07-03 stipulates that Senate action is required for the approval of graduate certificate programs that require 21 or more credit-hours. This credit-hour threshold also requires approval of the certificate program by the Ohio Board of Regents.

Members of the APC indicated support for the undergraduate certificate proposal and suggested that some clarifying changes be made to the proposal before it would be passed to the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate for consideration. These suggested changes included the following:

- Indicate the meaning of the TESOL acronym early in the proposal.
- Include a background section to help orient readers of the proposal.
- Include a standard Senate Document cover page.
- Include the written responses to consultation requests.

Since there is no Senate policy governing undergraduate certificate programs and graduate certificate programs requiring less than 21 credit-hours need not go to the full Senate for consideration the question of whether this TESOL undergraduate certificate proposal should go to the full Senate for legislative action was discussed. Members of the APC agreed that a policy governing undergraduate certificates should be developed by the APC in the next academic year. It was agreed that a factor that would support a decision to send the TESOL undergraduate certificate proposal to the full senate for legislative action is that the proposed certificate program involves more than one unit and so should be reviewed by a university-wide body. (Graduate certificate programs are reviewed by the Graduate Leadership Council.) Kathryn Kinnucan-Welsch voiced the concern that sending the proposal to the full Senate before a policy was in place might form a confusing precedent for future undergraduate certificate proposals.

The APC requested that the TESOL undergraduate certificate proposal be put into a form suitable for consideration by the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate (at the February 27 meeting of that body) and possible consideration by the Academic Senate (at the March 15 meeting of that body). It was agreed that Leno Pedrotti would present the proposal to the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate, indicating the APC-approval of the proposal and the issues surrounding the need for the proposal to go to the academic senate for action.

Old Business:

Competency Program Requirements

Leno Pedrotti presented a draft proposal to discontinue the University General and Graduation Competency Program. The members of the APC voiced approval for the substance of the proposal. It was agreed that the proposal should be improved in the following ways:

- The key differences in educational philosophy between the general competencies and CAP should be more clearly explained; discontinuation of the competency program would remove a university-wide requirement that a certain set of competency skills be instilled in all students.
- The proposal should be shortened and reorganized for clarity.

Leno Pedrotti agreed to make these changes. Jim Dunne agreed to edit the next draft of the proposal. The next draft will be considered at the March 8 meeting of the APC.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 am.

Submitted by Leno Pedrotti