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Academic Policies Committee Minutes of the Academic Senate 2020-10-16

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APC Minutes
October 16, 2020

Committee Members: Phil Anloague, Deb Bickford, Connie Bowman, Michael Davies, Mary Ellen Dillon, Neomi De Anda, Jim Dunne, John Mittelstaedt, Jason Pierce, Maher Qumsiyeh, Andrew Sarangan, and Tereza Szeghi (chair) [bolded are present]

1. Approval of [minutes](#) from October 2. Unanimously approved
2. Discussion of feedback and revised transfer credit policy from Carolyn Roecker Phelps. See embedded [feedback](#) and [revised transfer credit policy](#)
 - a. Tereza read comments from Hideo Tsuchida, particularly around the existence of bias in how we are evaluating transfers from different kinds of schools (less likely to accept credits from a course being transferred from less expensive institutions or community colleges). There might be unintended consequences or bias in the way we review courses coming in. Perhaps we could enter a preamble about this substance.
 - b. The first paragraph of the revised transfer credit policy includes guiding policy-- it could be a place to embed this kind of consideration, or perhaps the last sentence of the purpose section.
 - c. Tereza will compose a possible sentence to add, which we will consider.
 - d. There was some discussion of the difference between policy and guidelines or process
 - e. Maher suggested that the wording be more explicit in requiring chairs to consult with faculty. Discussion ensued. How detailed should we be? There is agreement that faculty should be explicitly included. Being more vague allows some discretion. It is located in E. Could say “will, as appropriate, consult with faculty.” “Consult as appropriate” would be a very valuable addition.
3. Conversation with Carolyn.
 - a. The version that Carolyn sent incorporates the suggestions from Hideo Tsuchida.
 - b. Point B includes the substance of the Military document on transfers.
 - c. Carolyn reiterated that this is a draft to be altered.
 - d. There is also the issue of competency credits. We might add a sentence to link what we accept to the expectations of HLC with regards to college credit.
 - e. Carolyn will look at the HLC guidance.
 - f. Carolyn said it is easier not to have the process listed in the policy because if processes change, then you have to change the policy.
 - g. It helps to lay out “accepted” vs. “applied.” We accept the credit if it is from a regionally accredited institution.
 - h. Linking the evaluation of transfer credits to course learning objectives will also be helpful. Some of our students come from smaller schools and it might be that a course taught of an English department in a smaller school could actually be a communication course (because they don’t have a communication department).
 - i. Carolyn expressed comfort in the direction we are moving. We are on a great path.
 - j. We can send edits to Carolyn.

4. Tereza will be at a conference next week; the meeting will be done by correspondence and we will not have a meeting next week. She will send out a reminder next week.
5. Tereza will send recordings of the past meeting when she sends out materials for a future meeting.
6. Adjourned at 3:25 for a pre-Senate eye break.