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Student Academic Policies Committee Minutes of the Academic Senate 2021-09-03

University of Dayton. Student Academic Policies Committee

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SAPC Minutes 3 September 2021 2:30pm. **DRAFT**

In attendance Joanna Abdallah, Sharon Gratto (Chair), Jay Janney, Allison Kinney, Ryan McEwan, Grace Pierucci, Molly Keane-Sexton, Andy Slade, John White

Regrets: Lee Dixon, Tom Skill, Andy Strauss

1. Sharon Gratto opened up by having those present introduce themselves. She then began sharing about the meeting schedule. Our regular meeting time is 2:30-3:20, but we have until 4pm reserved, in case we need the extra time for robust discussion during occasional meetings. SPC meetings weekly. We'll meet in person on the days when we have an Academic Senate meeting in person, otherwise we'll meet via zoom. The meeting rooms for in person meetings will be according to the schedule Jane Koester distributed.
2. Please check the shared drive for SAPC materials.
3. ECAS has not provided us with a charge for the upcoming year. We expect one shortly.
4. One charge we began last year requires completion, the Academic Dishonesty documentation.
 - a. We believe we got through the discussion of contents last year, but did not finish all the edits. There are multiple documents, all need to cohere. We don't need to continue to wordsmith it in our weekly meeting.
 - b. Lee Dixon agreed to fix the documents; Sharon requested volunteers to assist him. Allison Kinney and John White volunteered. SAPC needs to provide a final Academic Dishonesty report to the Academic Senate, sooner than later. This is priority #1
 - c. Sharon directed attention to an article in the October 2020 issue of The Chronicle on Academic Dishonesty, in which the author found that although some tools work better than others, nothing much works well. It appears to be a values issue more than a technique issue. Sharon also described her view on the importance of educating academic communities on moral and ethical action, especially at Marianist Catholic University, and continuing to work to increase student attention to academic honesty.
5. Sam Dorf has proposed appointing an ex officio member to the SAPC from Student Development. The committee informally supported the idea. ECAS will be informed of our support (they must approve it). Student Development administrators believe there is a need for better coordination and cooperation between the faculty and the efforts of student development. Sharon presented three topics for discussion which emerged from Sam's meeting with Student Development. A question emerges about "mission drift"; are these suitable topics for us? Sharon explained that listing and talking about these topics does not mean they will become SAPC action projects.
 - a. Path AVIATE (the logistics often discriminate against some of our better students, or students taking heavier class loads or working). Sharon shared how music students often cannot get into concerts due to the sign-up system. Other departments have similar concerns.

- b. Covid-19 compliance (UD pushing back hard against mandatory vaccination).
This is a topic of particular interest to many faculty. Two questions arose: Should those not vaccinated be tested weekly? Does the university still pay for testing? There was a lot of discussion about what can be done/not done. It was noted that mandatory vaccines would be expected to lead only to about 75%-80% coverage (many religious exemptions). Perhaps the University should give AVIATE points for being vaccinated?
 - c. Alcoholism on Campus. We see it can be detrimental; there are some policy concerns (e.g. having class on St. Patrick's day).
6. Academic Senate to consider hosting a panel of Student Development representatives for discussion about shared concerns between faculty and Student Development efforts and initiatives.
 7. Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) and classroom climate. This is priority #2 (while academic dishonesty forms are being updated).
 - a. An assessment of our actual form indicates it is above average. The sense is that the issue is how the form is disseminated and implemented. There are serious issues concerning "extreme comments," which can include illegal comments. Sharon curated three categories of comments: "constructive", "positive", "mean spirited/harassing".
 - i. It is the third category where we see a problem. Last year in our discussion we believed department chairs should look at comments at the same time as faculty, then meet with faculty to explain how those comments won't be used. An issue is department chairs may need to examine hundreds of SETs each semester (when Jay was chair, he had 27 fulltime faculty and roughly 70 adjunct); releasing them the same time means the faculty likely will read them first.
 - ii. Best practice suggests SET forms should be administered in class with faculty present, having faculty present the purpose for SET. What can faculty members do to support faculty concerning SET?
 - b. Classroom climate. Sometimes faculty say horrible things, and there is a perception of limited accountability.
 8. The meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm.

Professor Jay Janney, Scribe!