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Student Academic Policies Committee of the Academic Senate 2021-12-03

University of Dayton. Student Academic Policies Committee

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Approved SAPC Minutes 3 December 2021 2:30pm

In attendance Joanna Abdallah, Lee Dixon, Sharon Gratto, Jay Janney, Allison Kinney, Ryan McEwan, Grace Pierucci, Molly Kaye Sexton, Andy Slade, Tom Skill

Regrets: John White, Madison Woodrum

1. Minutes of November 19th were approved.
2. We talked briefly about Sharon's report to the Academic Senate. We talked about a question raised that was left unaddressed. There is a meta-analysis on the correlation between SET and learning outcomes (very low). There are real questions about what is meant by learning outcomes and whether or not SET information relates to student learning.
3. The Chair's Collaborative runs from 12:15-1:30, Monday December 6th Sharon requested the SAPC to attend; several responded they would be able to be there.
   a. We should seek input from the chairs, not lecture them
   b. The interpersonal relationship matters, and affects student evaluations. If chairs believe SET correlates with learning outcomes, that can be problematic.
      i. How do chairs use SET scores when determining merit? How much do they adjust scores?
      ii. What to do about out of range comments?
      iii. How do they handle bias?
      iv. What measures do chairs use in discerning faculty performance
      v. Can we move SET off of Christmas?
      vi. Can we use machine learning to examine student input, to seek inputs.
      vii. How would you (the chair) change how we address teaching effectiveness?
      viii. If faculty face low SET, how are faculty supported/counseled?
      ix. What do to about faculty who say something inappropriate in class?
         1. We need to ensure students know how to report inappropriate comments outside of SET (and early).
         2. The university needs to address the process,
         3. Chairs at UD, as a rule, are very student centered, and they regularly address these concerns.
   c. Academic Senate requires 10 days for SET to be administered. That messes up for 1x weekly courses who meet only once a week, in this year's case the classes that meet only weekly on Monday (SET opened on Tuesday) or Wednesday (Christmas on Campus eliminated one class meeting). SET was released on Tuesday, November 30th this semester, which was problematic for some courses.
      i. The solution may be to re-write the parameters for when SET is administered. That is in our purveyance. Can we ask David Wright to write the new parameters? "All courses need two class days in order to be administered"?
      ii. Can the calendar committee do it? Tom recommends the senate do it instead, allowing David Wright to set the dates. We may be able to get that onto the university calendar?
   d. Should we encourage self-reflection in their FAR? Not all faculty embrace self-reflection, as some believe the numbers are more relevant. They rely more heavily on the numbers relative to the narrative.

  e. We decided for multiple reasons not to include a recent article sent along by a faculty member.

  f. Can we send the chairs a summary of the type of questions we plan to ask? Sharon will take care of this.

4. Does SET feel like Social Media (which we believe is less civil than it should be)? How do we convince students to engage civilly through SET/

5. Meeting ended at 3:28.

Jay Janney, recording clerk