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Student Academic Policies Committee Minutes of the Academic Senate 2023-10-05

University of Dayton. Student Academic Policies Committee

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STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE (SAPC)

ACADEMIC SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
2023-2024

5 October 2023 Minutes

submitted by Trevor Collier

In attendance: Trevor Collier, Garrett Conti, Tim Gabrielli, Colleen Gallagher, Hamed Zolbanin, Jason Combs, Garrett Sargent

Guests: Carolyn Phelps, Chris Schramm, Jessica Hoelting

Tim: Review of some of what the committee has learned in consultation:

- There is some work being done in the Provost's Office to the Catalog.
- The Center for Online Learning was working on a tab/page in Isidore to include academic policies for students. This work was paused when a staff member left.
- SGA Student survey indicated that students would appreciate having this information on DegreeWorks, Porches or in Isidore.

Guests, Chris Schramm and Jessica Hoelting arrived, along with Carolyn Phelps.

Tim: Some background on the committee's work. Last year the Senate developed a policy on classroom digital monitoring, which updated the list of students' rights and responsibilities in the Faculty Handbook. This led to our current conversations on where this information should be located to be most accessible for students.

Chris Schramm is Associate Vice President and Dean of Students with 30 years of experience at UD. The Student Handbook began as a physical document. In addition to the code of conduct and the Honor Code, it included a variety of helpful information for student reference.

Today, having transitioned to a web page collection of links, the Student Handbook focuses on out of the classroom experiences – mostly governed by Director of Community Standards and Civility, with the code of conduct at the center of it. The one academic policy referenced in the handbook today is the academic Honor Code. Historically, the academic senate has said there is a bifurcation of what is included in the academic honor code and the code of conduct. Each academic unit holds students accountable to the academic honor code in different ways. The Academic Senate has decided that the student's out of classroom conduct does not belong in academic files or on their transcripts.

Tim: Can you please tell us more about how other universities handle this question?

Chris: Some universities, maybe many universities include suspensions and expulsions on academic transcripts. These are serious violations of our code of conduct and we (Student Life) believe this information would be valuable to include on a transcript.

Jessica: we are seeing an increase in records requests for behavioral/disciplinary records for students/former students. Employers, government agencies and graduate schools are realizing that this information is not on transcripts so they are seeking additional information.

Trevor: When was the last time the academic senate considered including this information on an academic transcript?

Chris: Not sure, but probably at least 10 years ago.

Trevor: Can we ask ECAS to consider a future inquiry about whether probation/suspension information should be included on academic transcripts?

Tim: Yes.

Trevor: What we are really here for today is to consider how best to get information about students' academic rights and responsibilities into their hands and available for them to reference.

Community Standards and Civility is about expectations of behavior and consequences for not upholding that behavior.

Jessica thinks the rights and responsibilities fundamentally relate to and should be connected to the Academic Honor Code. Tim sees that the interplay of rights and responsibilities fits well within the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

The Student Handbook also lives as a link in the Academic Catalog. UD Legal says students are legally bound to all things included in the Academic Catalog.

Jessica: We can access the student handbook from every year back to 1969. If something changes in the handbook, it is applicable to all students entering the university in the subsequent year.

Trevor: It seems interesting that the Academic Catalog includes references to "non-academic" components of the university. Would it be better to call it the "Undergraduate Catalog" or the "University Catalog."

Chris: It also includes references to Public Safety. We now also place holds on students' accounts if they repeatedly fail to uphold the code of conduct.

How would you all make this information available to students – both academic policies and out-of-the classroom policies (code of conduct)?

We need to have a location that legally binds our students to our policies and gives us authority to take action.

Could we have separate link in the Catalog to the Code of Conduct and the Honor Code with the students' rights and responsibilities?

Chris: Yes

Trevor: Could we include these links in other places beyond the academic catalog – say in an Isidore page for students?

Chris: Yes, that would be great.

Tim: Is there anything that should not be in the Academic Catalog?

Carolyn: I do not think so. HLC did not raise any issues during their last visit.

Chris: But anything written down, we better be ready to do, as we are legally bound.

Tim: I struggle with the idea that there are things in the Catalog that are legal documents the university and our students are held to, but other things that are just for informational purposes that we are not bound to.

Thanks for coming today. We hope we can continue to have more collaboration with Student Development.