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Fall 10-9-2023

Student Academic Policies Committee of the Academic Senate 2023-10-09

University of Dayton. Student Academic Policies Committee

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STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE (SAPC)

ACADEMIC SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
2023-2024

9 October 2023 Minutes

submitted by Colleen Gallagher

In attendance: Tim Gabrielli, Colleen Gallagher, Jaina Utrup, Jacob Cress, Tom Skill, Hamed Zolbanin, Ali Carr-Chellman

Guests: Mary Ann Recker

Review 10/5/23 meeting minutes: Tim provided a short summary of what we learned last time - principally, all docs are under academic catalog - and answered a question to clarify. Reviewed that a tangential issue that came up is whether Student Development and ECAS should revisit the 2001 decision not to include suspensions and expulsions on academic transcripts. A committee member expressed a concern about including suspensions and expulsions on the transcript. Tim acknowledged the concern and provided historical context. This topic could be a future ECAS agenda item.

10/5/23 minutes approved and entered into official record.

Consultation with Mary Ann Recker, Vice President and General Counsel: Tim prompted Mary Ann to tell about the catalog as a binding agreement. Mary Ann - it is not so much a contract as a set of statements and promises that people might rely on. Not a formal binding contract that's been signed, etc. Says expectations about classroom do belong in academic catalog. What's in Section 4 of student rights and responsibilities is partially in violation of FERPA. Recommends putting a link in the catalog, not the actual text, so you only have to update it once and so we have actual FERPA language in lieu of Section 4.

A committee member suggests that we need to recommend to Senate putting in place another check, perhaps a legal vetting, in process of making and adopting policy. A second committee member echoes the concern about Senate making policy not vetted and wondered whether, for example, professional faculty promotion docs from last year should have been vetted legally.

Mary Ann suggested the university policies committee could vet it and elevate it to university policy similar to non-discrimination policy.

Do we need to send this back to Senate? Or can we resolve it within ECAS? Mary Ann suggests leave introduction to Section 4 and then link to FERPA. There's also discussion about the notion of both rights and responsibilities in each section of the policy. Mary Ann replies when asked that we've had litigation on Title IX if that's considered part of the academic catalog, but none that are more on academic part of academic catalog in last 10-11 years. During the

pandemic, they reviewed the catalog language on modality of course offering carefully because some other universities ran into trouble on that.

Mary Ann says a catch-all/general caveat could be in catalog that offerings may not be available at all times, some of the information can change from time-to-time.

Mary Ann offers options for revision that she will send to us: (1) keep beginning part of current statement 4, (2) keep beginning and select other parts of statement 4 or (3) delete.

Her suggestions are linked here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LPmj_3ZQL9ZBStVJ8k73mu6wzrFME2TA/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100666788199775675327&rtpof=true&sd=true

Web content is better from an accessibility perspective, e.g. screen reader for a person with low vision than linking a PDF.

Tim thinks we would be covered to link this in the catalog - there's enough precedent - but we may need to do more work to develop a separate resource for students but would that work be worth the time spent?

Tim will talk to Erin about FERPA-inspired modifications for Section 4. Committee members in attendance don't dispute that linking to catalog, as a move with both precedent and requiring least amount of work, may be best solution.

Next meeting: Thursday, 19 October, 11:15am-12:15pm in SM113B