

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 16, 2018
Approved: April 6, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:11pm.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Escobar passed around a roll sheet for folks to indicate their attendance.

Voting Members: Catlin, Datwyler (absent), Escobar, Fox, Gonzalez, Heinicke, Johnston, Sharpp, Van Vo, Yonemura

Non-Voting/Ex-Officio Members: Ambrose (absent), Cortez, Heather (absent), Hernandez, Hunt (absent), Murphy (absent), Taylor (absent), Watson-Derbigny (absent)

GUESTS: School of Nursing/First Year Experience: Bridget Parsh

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Voting members approved the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the March 2nd meeting were approved.

OPEN FORUM:

SENATE UPDATES: Chair Escobar informed the Committee that the Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures was on the Faculty Senate agenda as a First Reading item on March 15th. Two questions/issues were raised: (1) if a faculty member does not report cheating/plagiarism, could a student appeal their grade on those grounds (i.e., for failure to follow university policy?). *The Grade Appeal Policy & Procedures does provide for this, so technically, yes, a student can appeal their final grade on these grounds.* Was that the Committee's intent, to include language that would allow for this? *It was not something that the Committee addressed or brought up but when given this information and question, the Committee was fine with it.* (2) In Section VIII.A and VIII.B of the Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures (AHPP), there is an inconsistency in the language regarding changing a grade for an assignment and/or a student's overall grade. Chair Escobar recommended that a Senator simply make an amendment to that language to make the sections consistent with one another. The Committee was fine with this as well.

COMMITTEE CHAIR NOMINATIONS FOR 2018-19 AY.

Chair Escobar informed the Committee that the 2018-19 Senate will be holding organizational meetings to elect its officers as follows: April 12 - nominations for officers; April 26 - election of officers (with further nominations possible before the election is held). The Committee nominated Mathew Schmittlein for APC Chair for 2018-19. Chair Escobar will follow-up with Senator Schmittlein and report back at the April 6th meeting regarding whether he has accepted the nomination or not.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ADVISING POLICY & TASK FORCE: Chair Escobar began the discussion by stating that the main objective and focus of the meeting would be to review the draft of the revised Academic Advising Policy and Procedures (AAPP).

The Committee continued its discussions of the draft of proposed revisions to the Academic Advising Policy and Procedures (AAPP), specifically with respect to definitions of “peer advisors/mentors, etc.” and what these advisors/mentors actually do in terms of advising. **B. Parsh** informed the Committee that they do some GE advising, though they do not have the authority to place holds on student records. The Professional Advisors and other staff place and remove holds. B. Parsh also informed us that all first year students have holds on their records; once they see an advisor, the hold is removed. The issue of holds on students’ records has raised a number of questions and concerns. Some argue that it slows students’ progress toward the degree/graduation.

Chair Escobar inquired as to whether undergraduate students were included in Unit 11 (union) and was told that only graduate students, as instructional student assistants, comprised Unit 11.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM: The Committee did not discuss this item very thoroughly, and **Chair Escobar** indicated that it would be placed as the first discussion item on the April 6th agenda. In the last few minutes of the meeting, a few points were made:

J. Johnston shared that she had started letting go of the policing of cell phone usage in her classroom.

A. Yonemura raised a point regarding guest speakers in classrooms and the “optics” of students using/looking at their cell phones while the speaker is giving their lecture.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.