

Minutes
COMMISSION ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND POLICIES
September 12, 2011
3:00 – 5:00 P.M. 230 Student Services Building

Present: R Panneton, (Chair); D. Thorp; M. Golparvar-Fard for S. Taheri; L. Cavuoto; C. Clemenz for R. Sorensen; B. Watford for R. Benson; D. Stauffer; M. Denbow; A. Nelson; N. Dam; S. Bennett; K. Heiter; D. Smith; J. Rankin; L. Beecher; A. Scripa; J. Sible for L. Nam Chang; J. Penven; S. Sumner for A. Grant; R. Holloway; S. Ott Rowlands; Y. Stivachtis; A. Hawthorne; V. Fowler; D. Zahm; S. McMullin

Absent with Notification: D. Patterson; G. Schurig

Absent without Notification: J. Browder

Visitors: W. Dean; M. Maloney

Call to Order and Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Robin Panneton, Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

Old Business

Steve McMullin, College of Natural Resources and Environment, noted the April 25, 2011 tabling of the renaming of the Department of Wood Science to Department of Sustainable Biomaterials was based on the erroneous understanding that the State Council on Higher Education (SCHEV) required departmental names to reflect degree(s) offered. Therefore, a resolution with justification for the department name change along with a motion to remove the action from the table will proceed at the next Commission meeting.

New Business

Resolution 2011-12.A “Resolution to Revise the Academic Eligibility Policy”, First Reading.

Rachel Holloway, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, presented for first reading of Resolution 2011-12.A, “*Resolution to Revise Academic Eligibility Policy*”, effective Fall 2012. Motion was seconded and approved. The Sub Committee on Academic Policy proposes this addition to the existing eligible policy to address concerns on the identification and intervention of students who demonstrate term performance below the required minimum grade point average and yet maintain good standing per the policy definition. Dr. Holloway further

explained that the resolution is intended to inform advisors and administrators of drastic changes in academic performance before the student is subject to academic probation or suspension. As an example, Dr. Holloway shared the recent scenario of a student in good standing who presented four semesters of a 0.0 GPA before the student was placed on probation and before the college was notified of required actions. If the policy of academic warning were in effect, the student would have been flagged for intervention at the end of the first term of 0.0 GPA resulting in action prior to the receipt of probationary status and subsequent negative impact to the student's progress toward the degree. Also, Wanda Hankins Dean commented that, as a member of the University Student CARE team, many cases brought to the team's attention involve students, otherwise in good standing, who have experienced one or more terms of declining grades without intervention by the student's college. Dr. Thorpe queried the reasoning of the use of the word "may" instead of "will" in the statement, "Students on academic warning may be required to consult with the appropriate Undergraduate Academic Dean". Dr. Holloway indicated there was extensive discussion of this wording issue by the committee. The choice of the word "may" reflects college flexibility in the application of the policy.

Reports from Commission Committees/Sub Committees

University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education

Rachel Holloway presented the University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education minutes of April 6, 2011. Dr. Holloway indicated the minutes reflect the discussion of the Vision for Undergraduate Education. The role of the Curriculum for Liberal Education and the challenge of skills oriented curricula within the defined goals of the Vision document were discussed. The motion was made and seconded to accept the University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education minutes of April 6, 2011. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

Other Business

Chair and Representatives of CUSP Sub-Committees

The following individuals volunteered to serve as chair(s) or representatives as followed:

Chair for Academic Support Committee

Mike Denbow

Chair for Academic Policy Committee

Rachel Holloway

Representative for University Curriculum Committee for Liberal Education

Virginia Fowler

Representative for University Athletics Committee
Dean Stauffer

Representative for University Commencement Committee
Candice Clemenz

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm

Submitted by,
Megan Maloney
Office of the University Registrar