

Faculty Senate Academic Policy Committee (APC) Minutes

January 14, 2014 - convened at 3:05 pm in 125 Polk Hall

Senators Present: Jeannette Moore, Co-chair; Montse Fuentes, Co-chair; Roy Borden, Jim Knopp, Beverly Tyler.

Unable to attend: Harald Ade, Patricia Morgado, Nancy Penrose, Rich Spontak.

Guests: Dr. Nancy Whelchel (Associate Director for Survey Research, University Planning and Analysis).

1. Minutes from the last meeting

The November 26 minutes were approved without changes and were posted at:

http://ncsu.edu/faculty_senate/faculty-senate-committees/faculty-senate-committee-academic-policy.php

2. Surveys at N.C. State University

Dr. Nancy Whelchel (Associate Director for Survey Research, University Planning and Analysis) informed the APC that she had already met with the University Research Committee and with the DASA (Division of Academic and Student Affairs) leadership team as a result of the Provost asking her to look into the problem of Survey Fatigue at N.C. State University. A regulation is being proposed and Dr. Whelchel was seeking input from the APC.

The APC was provided with an overview of the new regulation, including "What it Is" and "What it Is Not." The main purpose is to track the extent of surveys at N.C. State University, to provide information, to let administration know if a survey will be conducted within their group, to coordinate the selection of undergraduates (or whatever population the survey targets), and to review & approve requests from non-NCSU people who wish to survey members of the NCSU community (any person not affiliated with NC State University wanting to administer a survey to NC State students, faculty, staff, and/or administrators will be required to complete and submit an External Survey Request Form). For those affiliated with NCSU, it is not an evaluation of the research design and is not a formal review and approval process.

The APC was unanimously supportive of the new regulation after discussion. Points of concern that were raised and addressed were:

- a. This might increase demand by making it easy to do surveys through Nancy's office. (Response: the goal is to actually reduce survey fatigue, and selection of the subpopulation being surveyed can be done in such a way as to not overlap for multiple surveys.)
- b. What about doing surveys in a class or several sections of a class? (Response: Faculty who administer surveys in their courses are not affected by this regulation.)
- c. What about surveys targeted to a course at NCSU but administered by another university? (Response: The faculty member who teaches the course is still free to give students the survey link, but Nancy's office would like to know about it so those students don't get targeted for another survey during the same semester.)

The committee thanked Dr. Whelchel for sharing this information and soliciting input.

3. Update on Evening Exams and the CUE Subcommittee

Dr. Barbara Kirby (Academic Programs and Services, Associate Vice Provost) provided an update for the committee via email. The Evening Exam problem has been addressed, and measures to prevent it from happening again will be incorporated into revisions of the regulations that are being done for UNC General Administration compliance. The Council on Undergraduate Education (CUE) has a subcommittee reviewing the course rubric for General Education approval. CUE voted to send a letter to administration indicating that transfer students under the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement should meet the same graduation requirements as new freshmen (specifically related to Foreign Language and Health & Exercise Studies).

4. Multidisciplinary Degree

At the Faculty Senate Exec Committee meeting, Chair Zonderman said he wanted the proposed Multidisciplinary Degree to be on the APC radar. It is believed that no committee has met to date to initiate the process.

5. Issues Delayed to the Next Meeting

- a. Warren Jasper raised an Issue of Concern about the First Year Writing policy for AP credit (indicating folks in his college think the requirements are too strict for students to get ENG 101 credit). It was suggested that we may want to have Susan Miller Cochran attend a future APC meeting to give us more information.
- b. Michael Pendlebury raised an Issue of Concern about the requirement to drop courses that have not been taught recently. The question is if courses could go into hibernation if a department thinks they will be offered again when the economy is better. This would mean the courses would not show in the catalog, but would not be officially dropped.
- c. Hans Kellner raised an Issue of Concern about this semester's schedule. Why did it start so early? Why do the last two weeks of the semester not have Thursday and Friday classes? Why are the Reading Days at the beginning instead of the middle of final exams? Is this semester's strange schedule related to the implementation of a "Maymester" here at NCSU? Harald Ade is the Faculty Senate rep on the calendar committee.

6. University committees APC senators are on:

(There was not sufficient time for discussion on this topic.)

Harald Ade -

Roy Borden - University Courses and Curricula (UCCC)

Montse Fuentes - Budget

Jim Knopp - Council on Undergraduate Education (CUE) and University Common Reading Committee

Jeannette Moore - Evaluation of Teaching

Patricia Morgado - the Council on the Status of Women

Nancy Penrose - Admissions.

Rich Spontak - Commencement; Evaluation of Teaching

Beverly Tyler -

7. The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.