

Faculty Senate Academic Policy Committee (APC) Minutes

September 17, 2013 - convened at 3 pm in 125 Polk Hall

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

Unable to attend: Montserrat Fuentes (out of town) , Co-chair; Harald Ade (on sabbatical), Patricia Morgado, Nancy Penrose (departmental RPT meeting), Rich Spontak.

Guests: Dr. Carrie Zelna and Dr. Stephany Dunstan, Office of Assessment

1. Minutes from the last meeting

The September 3 minutes were approved via email and are posted at:

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

2. General Education testing

Dr. Carrie Zelna, Director of NCSU's Office of Assessment, and Dr. Stephany Dunstan, Assistant Director of Assessment, brought a draft copy of printed materials for the APC to review. The materials were a summary of the Spring 2013 GE Competency Testing pilot that was conducted at NCSU, and Drs. Zelna and Dunstan were seeking input on the presentation of the material for faculty review at college Courses and Curricula meetings or other venues.

Carrie and Stephany explained that NCSU had chosen to use the abbreviated ETS exam:

<http://www.ets.org/proficiencyprofile/about>

This is a 40-minute multiple choice exam that covers critical thinking, reading, and mathematics. The critical thinking and mathematics (quantitative) match two of our General Education student learning outcomes. Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science are embedded in the reading tasks.

Other exams that were considered but not adopted were:

- CAT (Critical Thinking Assessment Test): This is a wonderful exam that assesses Critical Thinking, but the student essays are very expensive to grade.
- CLA (Collegiate Learning Assessment): This very long test requires students to invest 2 to 2.5 hours for completion, and it was deemed unlikely that we would be able to encourage students to dedicate this much time to an optional exam.

The APC provided Carrie and Stephany feedback on the draft presentation of the ETS results. The discussion lasted longer than anticipated, and Drs. Zelna and Dunstan were invited to be first on the agenda at our next meeting on October 1st. They will modify the document that they plan to present to faculty, and will get the APC's input on the Draft 2 version.

3. New or Other Business

Two recent concerns were brought up:

- It is assumed faculty know they cannot require students to convene outside of regularly scheduled class time without the event being listed on the approved syllabus that is on file in DASA, but this appears to be an erroneous assumption. There is at least one example of a faculty member requiring students to attend a night exam, and that exam is not a pre-approved common exam.
- For courses with pre-approved common night tests, it is assumed that the exam time would replace a regularly scheduled class so as to not exceed the contact hours for the course. There is at least one example of students being required to attend class in addition to taking a common night exam, which results in the course exceeding the approved contact hours.
<http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-17>

It was determined that these concerns warrant further discussion at a future APC meeting.

4. University committees APC senators are on:

Harald Ade - on sabbatical Fall 2013

Roy Borden - University Courses and Curricula (UCCC): Didn't meet (no actions)

Montse Fuentes - Budget: no report (senator absent)

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

CUE is training new members on procedures and is giving practice using the General Education rubrics to evaluate courses being considered for addition to a GEP list. One discussion topic has been: "What is the minimum effort considered to be acceptable for a course to meet US Diversity or Global Knowledge?" The discussion is ongoing.

The Common Reading Committee is down to the final 10 books for 2014 consideration.

Each member reads 4 of the 10 books, then the committee discusses and evaluates the choices.

Jeannette Moore - Evaluation of Teaching: hasn't met yet

Patricia Morgado - Council on the Status of Women: no report (senator absent)

Nancy Penrose - Admissions: no report (senator absent)

Rich Spontak - Commencement; Evaluation of Teaching: no report (senator absent)

Beverly Tyler - on sabbatical Fall 2013

5. Adjourned at 4:43 p.m.