

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of the Faculty Senate
Academic Policy Committee

October 5, 2021 Minutes

Attendance: Lisa Bass-Freeman (co-chair), Paul Williams (co-chair), Robert Riehn, Intae Yoon, Ken Zagacki, Michael Reiskind, Christopher DePerno, and Greg Tourino, Tushar Ghosh, Jonathan Duggins.

Guest: Darby Orcutt, Chair of CUE

The Academic Policy Committee (APC) of the Faculty Senate discussed the following:

- I. Darby Orcutt, Chair of CUE attended the meeting to address the points raised in Professor Austin's IOC. Chair Orcutt began his remarks by addressing the issue of whether CUE has the authority to change the US – Diversity requirement as it did. He noted that CUE's main job is making sure courses intended to meet the GEP actually meet those objectives. Courses must meet GEP requirements and the proposed change to US-D is not a change in the GEP requirements themselves but a change in what courses meet those requirements. Chair Orcutt explained that the process of making the change was a long process and did not occur in a rush. Unlike most issues at CUE where a subcommittee does the initial work to a recommendation, the issue on changing US – D was deemed significant enough to require a committee of the whole. Cue representatives took the proposal to their respective College Curriculum Committees to get a reading on what the proposal should contain and CUE discussed the various issues raised. The final proposal was the result of an iterative process.

The final recommendation then was submitted to Doneka Scott, the new head of DASA, and Warwick Arden, the Provost who accepted the proposal. The proposal is now in an implementation phase and will apply to students entering fall semester 2023. The new US – DEI requirement will be a credit requirement rather than a co-requisite as was US – D. As to the concern raised over lack of rigor Chair Orcutt asserted that the new requirement increases rigor since courses fulfilling the requirement must meet all three of the objectives stipulated for a US – DEI course. Chair Orcutt admitted that most likely the courses meeting the standard would have to be three hour courses but some one or two hour courses could meet the requirement and that decision would be made by CUE. A primary responsibility of CUE is to approve only those courses that meet standards of rigor so there are not likely to be many one or two hour courses that will pass muster. Since the new requirements cover not just diversity but also equity and inclusion the one hour courses that in the past might barely have satisfied the diversity requirement would not satisfy the DEI requirement.

Chair Orcutt also noted that students want DEI to be credit bearing and that making room for it to be credit bearing necessitated eliminating other things such as part of

additional breadth. He acknowledged that no change could please everyone but that the vast majority of CUE members see the change as huge and necessary step forward.

Questions from APC members included whether it is a “done deal” and the answer is that it is. It is being implemented; it is too late to resurrect discussion about the proposal. Of course, Chair Orcutt said, it can be adjusted down the road to correct difficulties that become apparent after it goes into effect. It was asked whether the necessary courses could be developed in time to be in effect by fall 2023. Chair Orcutt said that there are a number of three hour courses currently being offered that with a little tweaking can be modified to fit the new requirement. No one, so far, has expressed any concerns that we will not be ready by 2023. Since APC was not afforded the opportunity to provide input an APC member asked if implementation could be delayed. Chair Orcutt noted that CUE only advises and has not the power to postpone it. CUE could suggest it, but the Provost does not have to accept that recommendation. The risk in holding it up is that the implementation of the change could be held up for a long time and the delay has already been too long. Chair Orcutt concluded that we don’t have to get it right for all time and that future changes can be made to address some of the concerns about predicted events should those events actually arise. The change was done through a faculty driven process so invariably the result won’t please everyone.

II. Old Business

None

III. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Williams
Co-chair Academic Policy Committee