Academic Policy Committee Meeting

January 7, 2022 2:00PM, via WebEx

Present: Ben Clark, Melanie DeVore, Steve Elliott-Gower, Dana Gorzelany-Mostak, Mariana Stoyanova (late), Catrena Lisse (late), Eryn Viscarra (late), Nicholas Creel (chair)

Not Present: Laura Childs (regrets)

Not Present: Alesa Liles, Youngmi Kim, Robert Sumowski

Agenda Items:

Review and discuss updates to the “Student Academic Bill of Rights & Responsibilities”

* Faculty expressed concern regarding how student evaluations are used as part of the evaluative process. For example, some faculty cited instances where chairs or deans cherry picked quotes from student evaluations and included them as a part of the faculty evaluation. Another member expressed concern that faculty in superior positions could use a student complaint to their advantage
* Committee members feel faculty should have a role in determining what is expected from students. Some feel the current climate puts faculty with unpopular viewpoints or liberal political views at risk for retaliation by students, but also by legislators.
* Committee members feel the Student Bill should be revised in a way that protects academic freedom. There was a question as to whether such revisions would fall under the purview of Faculty Affairs. (Nick is going to reach out to Sabrina Hom about this issue.) APC feels that there should be SGA involvement in the revision of the Student Bill.
* Faculty feel there is a need to clarify the role of the student in the age of creative pedagogies, state what constitutes effective teaching, and redefine the student-teacher relationship. (e.g., the classroom is a shared environment; the student is responsible for content).
* Faculty brainstormed other ways to evaluate faculty performance, in addition to the SRIS. Peer review and midterm assessment were discussed. Faculty also discussed the possibility of students completing the SRIS around the midterm rather than at the end of classes.
* One committee member suggested that faculty take advantage of the ability to create their own questions in the student evaluation system. (e.g., Have the questions be the course objectives and ask the students if these objectives were met.) Another committee member suggested that Jim Berger come to the next APC meeting or possibly offer a workshop on assessment.
* Another suggestion was to consider offering students instruction on *how* to evaluate their courses and professors.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:19pm.

Next Meeting: February 4, 2022 at 2pm