

Academic Council Meeting
Minutes
APPROVED
Friday, November 20, 2020
10:00 am-12:00 pm – MS Teams

Attendance: Adam Keller, Adele Wright, Amy Popovich, Andrea Pifher, Ben Pugno, Cathy Ritterbusch, Elizabeth Hammond, Fauna Stout, Heather Thompson-Gillis, Holly Finnegan, Jack McCoy, Jeanette Ferguson, Jorie Schwartz, Kent Fisher, Sandy Drakatos, Lee Wayand, Marc Lord, Martin Blaine, Melissa Marmie, Nancy Pine, Nick Lakostik, Nicole Brandt, Patricia May-Woods, Patty Allen, Paul Graves, Ruey Bruce, Tammy Montgomery, Terrie Stolte, Tracy Koski

1. Welcome

Amy Popovich welcomed members and began the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2020 meeting (*attached*) (5 min)

Fauna Stout moved to approve the minutes, including a minor editing correction. Terrie Stolte seconded; motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

3. (New Item) CSEA Agreement

Amy Popovich expressed gratitude to the CSEA Bargaining Team and all faculty involved in the negotiation of the tentative agreement reached yesterday. Adam Keller referred members to a summary and copy of the tentative agreement distributed via email and available on the CSEA member website. A CSEA member meeting will be announced soon.

4. COVID-19 Operations Update

Ruey Bruce, member of the College's COVID-19 Operations Team, updated the Council on the evolving pandemic response. Faculty and staff are asked to minimize campus traffic as much as possible; to convert classes to remote as much as possible. Jeanette F. reminded everyone to report students who have COVID, *even if they are solely virtual*, so that the College can reach out to those students to provide support. The link is as follows:

https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ColumbusStateCC&layout_id=17

5. Council Business

a. Draft – AC Charter (30 min)

Cathy R. led a discussion regarding the proposed Charter. The discussion will continue in a separate meeting in January/early February.

b. Draft – Updated Annual Reporting Form – Amy P. shared in Teams and requested feedback via email.

- c. Draft – Tracking Document for AC Recommendations – Amy P. shared in Teams and requested feedback via email.
 - d. SP21 Meeting Dates (5 min) – Amy P. solicited feedback regarding the proposed dates of February 19, March 26, April 23. No objections; those will be the meeting dates. Amy P. encouraged Committees to schedule their spring meetings.
- 6. Academic Testing – Dr. Tom Erney, Dr. Diana Wisse (Guests)
Dr. Erney and Dr. Wisse provided an update regarding the activities and plans of the Alternative Academic Assessment Committee.
- 7. SP20 Graduation Videos – Allen Kraus (Guest)
Allen shared the College’s plans to celebrate Sp20, Su20, and Au20 graduates via livestream on December 20 at 3pm, and requested the Council to solicit participating faculty and students. Faculty will be asked to tell student stories (3, ideally representing a range of areas), and then have the students have an opportunity to react/speak. Approx. 4-5 minutes total for faculty & student. In addition, any faculty may submit brief self-recorded pieces congratulating students (either generally, or directed to students in their program), to be considered for inclusion in the video. Allen will forward info to Council for distribution. Deadlines: Identify faculty-student pairs by Dec. 7/provide short congratulatory videos by Dec 14.
- 8. Status Updates on Prior Recommendations (10 min)
 - a. Alternative Failing Grade (“EN”) Grade – This recommendation has been approved by Cabinet. Patty Allen reported that Academic Policies and Procedures Committee is working collaboratively with administration to revise current Policy & Procedure to continue moving this toward the target of AU21 implementation.
 - b. Curriculum Faculty Fellows – Marc L. updated the Committee that several members of Curriculum met with administrative representatives. While other ideas for improvement to the curricular process were addressed, administration did not acknowledge or discuss the idea of faculty fellows. Marc L. will provide more a detailed update to AC leaders.
 - c. Settings for Faculty/Course Evaluations – Martin Blaine reported that Recommendations 2-6 from prior meeting are in the process of being implemented. Martin requested to revisit the first recommendation that chairs receive evaluations. Discussion referred to CSEA for input.
- 9. Starfish Communications – Holly Finnegan met with Starfish admin leads to work on email language and address concerns about templates, particularly those emails that are

created to appear as though they have sent by the instructor. Student Support will reach out to Starfish leads to discuss the communications more globally.

10. Fresh Start-Change of Major Recommendation – Martin Blaine introduced a “fresh-start” strategy developed by the College-wide Student Retention Strategies Committee, of which Martin is a member. In the most basic terms, the strategy offers students an opportunity for GPA re-calculation disregarding classes in a prior major. Council generally supports the strategy and principles behind it. Academic Council members may forward questions, concerns, ideas to Martin B., so that he may pass those along to the Committee as this idea continues to be developed.

11. Diversity & Inclusion Committee Items

a. Update on BLM Scholarship – Nicole Brandt reported that the Scholarship has received initial funding and scholarships will be distributed beginning in spring. Please contact Nicole B. for further details and opportunities to support ongoing funding. Congratulations to the Committee for launching this scholarship!

b. CSCC Job Descriptions -- Concerns Regarding Discriminatory Language Request. Christine Creagh shared with the Council boilerplate language that appears in CSCC job descriptions. The language is able-ist, requiring physical functionality not associated with actual job duties. Amy, Bruce, Cathy to forward these concerns in next conversation with Dr. Maliwesky.

12. Committee Updates (optional) – Amy P. reiterated the importance of the Committees’ work even though we did not have time for informal updates in this meeting. She invited Committees to post updates in Teams (Files/Committee Updates folder) by December 1.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:29 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by: C. Ritterbusch