

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, October 28, 2024
2:30p.m. | UC Council Room

Minutes

Present: Allen, Benedict, Bermudez, Cieminski, de la Torre, Fryer, Kyle, Larson, Leatherman, Leonard, Matchett, Muller, Newman, Paytoe Gbayee

Zoom: Couch

Absent: Parker

Call to Order 3:30pm

Approval of the Agenda Approved without objection

Approval of the October 14, 2024, meeting minutes approved with the changes made by Nancy Matchett.

Announcements/Chair's Report (Newman) – Newman has invited programs that will be affected by the proposed curriculum changes to the next Academic Policies meeting. Two programs, Philosophy and International Affairs, have expressed concerns, while others have indicated they are okay with the changes.

Reports from Councils

Graduate Council (Cieminski) – Graduate council met last week and approved a change to the low GPA policy, adjusting the notification timing from after 9 credits to after 6 credits. They spoke with the Registrar about 30-credit master's programs, proposing that students receive a low GPA warning instead of immediate probation, allowing time to improve before further action. This proposal will be brought to the APC. Graduate council discussed accelerated programs with 600 – level courses, considering a shift from 600-level to 500-level courses and specific requirements for 4+1. The council also reviewed one program that operates in 8-week terms and discussed the distinctions between full- and part-time master's program formats.

Liberal Arts Council (Muller) – Liberal Arts Council met on 10/22, welcomed new members, approved a complicated student exception request in keeping with LAC exception precedents, continued work on indirect assessment student survey, began discussion on policies for units that do not submit full direct assessment data, participated via assessment council meeting with the HLC accreditation team and open forum on criteria 3 and 4, Chair Muller and Assessment Director Bebee had first AY 23-24 DA follow-up unit meeting with DoGGS

Professional Education Council (Paytoe Gbayee) – The Professional Education Committee now has full slate members. They are reevaluating bylaws, membership requirements, and chair/vice chair requirements

Undergraduate Council (Larson) – No report

Student Government Association (Bermudez) – The Student Government Associations is finalizing a fall break survey and will begin polling students in November. They are also working on costumes

Special Reports
Special Order

Unfinished Business

- **MCB Coursera Micro-credentials**

- [MCB Coursera Partnership FAQs](#)
- From Keiko:
At MCB, we would like to partner with Coursera and provide access to the professional-level training courses and certifications from the world's leading companies such as Google, IBM, Meta, and Microsoft. For business students, graduating with such certifications would give them an edge in their employment.
- One point of concern was regarding micro-credentials offered by Coursera that are possible programs offered here at UNC, such as cybersecurity.
- Full certifications will not be embedded as classroom assignments and students will have access to resources within the "Career Academy" portal.
- Amie mentioned seeing a flyer about earning a credential by completing a few courses. However, UNC does not have the capability to award micro-credentials at the moment.
 - Branding and cost details for such credentials are not yet available.
- There was a question on whether these credentials would be called "micro-credentials" through Coursera.
 - Larson clarified that they would be referred to as "badges" by UNC, though Coursera labels them as "micro-credentials."
- UNC will need to define its own terms if it intends to establish branded micro-credentials.
- This initiative aims to enable students to access learning opportunities, with many being available at no cost.

New Business

- **Micro-credentials/badges**

- [Dean's proposal to support Micro-credentials](#)
- Any registered UNC student will have the opportunity to earn a micro-credential, which reduces the workload for on-campus professors.
 - The badges should demonstrate specific skills or competencies students acquire.
- As a committee, what academic policies do members want to consider and added values this brings.
 - Items to consider include establishing a minimum set of requirements for badges.
- Newman proposed a cross-college committee that will review, ensure value, and determine alignment of the micro-credentials and UNC standards.
 - CU Boulder currently had a separate group for reviewing co-curricular and academic badges.

- Benedict supports the idea of a separate committee for decisions on these badges.
 - Muller raised a concern about the time constraints if APC will be reviewing the badges after the subcommittee.
 - In the interest of time, it was suggested to have a threshold of requirements or consider Micro-credentials to only be academic.
 - Which is where the a clear distinction between an academic certificate and badge must be made. It was recommended to change certificates from 9 credits to 12.
- de la Torre asked if Canvas will be the main platform for administering these badges and if enrollment is required.
 - Canvas will provide an image of the digital badge and non-degree-seeking students also have Canvas access.
- Establishing standards for badges is necessary, along with a clear distinction between academic certificates and badges. However, the process for awarding badges is separate from defining their purpose or significance.
- According to IM&T, Canvas is the most economical option, with an already existing relationship with UNC.
- Badges can serve as marketing tools for UNC, with options for students to earn various badges through different areas.
- For certain badges (e.g., leadership or conference participation), a process to verify student achievements may be necessary, although this adds to the administrative workload.
 - If a committee similar to CU Boulder's is created, a designated verifier for badge awards will need to be required.
 - Badges would be popular with adult learners and act as a motivator, though verification responsibilities would fall on designated personnel, not on the Registrar.
- There are already many institutions offering badges and not doing so could put UNC students at a disadvantage and could be valuable for students who don't complete their degrees, offering formal recognition of skills gained.
- Badges would not qualify for financial aid.
- Bermudez noted that badges might add to faculty's workload instead students and with this opportunity to specialize themselves students may take this up. The financial aspect of this is an important factor as well.
- Items to consider in
 - If additional staff will need to be hired?
 - Will we require students to apply? Or would they be automatically enrolled?
 - Would there be a process to take back the badge?
 - Can you retroactively apply for badge?
 - Who will manage badges that can be use earned from different programs?
- Newman will draft a charge for the new committee and present it to APC and Faculty Senate, incorporating key discussion points.
 - Consideration of committee members' credentials is essential.

- APC can adapt the CU Boulder Policy and minimize the number of members due to the small amount of faculty.
- **General Education Foundation Skills Credential (i.e., LAC “badge”)**
 - [CDHE recommendation](#)

Unfinished Business on hold

- **Academic Calendar: Fall Break**
 - [Comparison of CO Universities terms](#)
- **Four-Day Final Exam schedule**
 - [Final Exam Schedule resolution.docx](#)
 - [Faculty Senate resolution to support](#)
- **Curriculum Standards Recommendations (folder with documents)**
 - [Working CWG document and recommendations](#)
 - [Current program credit hour requirements](#)
 - [Drafted new language for the catalog](#)
 - [Programs affected by change in this language](#)
- **University Libraries Unit Organization**
 - [UL Proposed Organization](#)
- **NHS proposal for Undergraduate Grader**
 - [NHS proposal for Undergraduate Grader](#)

Comments to the Good of the Order

Adjournment 3:45pm

Harmony Newman
Chair