Academic Standards Committee
Minutes of October 27, 2010

Members in attendance: Arunendu Chatterjee, Daryl Miller, Stacey Stoffregen, Stan Schraufnagel,
Tricia Davis, Dan Vande Yacht, Andriel Dees, Terry Ferriss (Chair)

Members absent: Dennis Cooper, Dale Gallenberg, Glen Potts, Faye Perkins, student reps

Guests: Laura Zlogar and Betty Bergland

1. Meeting was called to order at 9am, October 27, 2010.

2. Ferriss reported that Tricia Davis will be representing the CAS Dean's Office in place of Brad Caskey
   for the 2010-2011 academic year.

3. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee requested the Committee review the current policy on
due date for turning in grades. The current Faculty Senate policy is:

   8.2.14 Final Grades
   The class rosters with final grades recorded on them are due in the
   Registrar’s Office on or before the fifth working day following the last
   scheduled examination. The instructor is responsible for checking the
   accuracy of the information on each grade roster. [FS 04/05 #19]

Some faculty teaching writing intensive courses, especially English and History, have expressed
concern that there is not sufficient time given for grading at the end of Fall Semester. The holidays
and mandatory furlough day are mixed in with the grading days and several faculty report they are
needing to grade on days that are labeled as non-working days in order to get all of the grades in by the
current specified dates. Laura Zlogar and Betty Bergland spoke to the problem, as did a letter from
Greta Gaard to the committee. They were concerned about having inadequate time for grading essays
and papers after final exams in fall semesters. The base of their position was that they have inadequate
time to provide appropriate grading feedback to students on their writing assignments/exams
(inhibiting good pedagogy) and there is a feeling of infringement on faculty's personal time during the
holidays and furlough day in order to complete grading on time. Gaard's letter suggested that fair labor
standards were being violated. Dees stated that holidays are structured by the employer not the Fair
Labor Act. The employer is responsible for setting the guidelines for their employees.

Zlogar suggested that a new policy be considered, on that would require grades to be submitted 5
working days after the last exam OR the first working day in January. The motion was made
(Schraufnagel/Davis) to change the current grading due date policy to read:
"Final grades are due in the Registrar's Office on or before the fifth working day following
the last scheduled final examination date OR on the first working day in January, whichever
one is the latter date."

Vande Yacht shared the policies and due dates for grades of the other UW-System institutions. UWRF
currently provides more days for grading than all other institutions. The latest due date this year is
Dec. 29, which includes UWRF and 5 other institutions.
Miller suggested considering establishing the deadline for the last day of the year. Miller asked how late in January could the deadline be before it would impact other activities that depend upon grade submission. Stoffregen asked what is the expected variation between the last day of December and the first working day in January. A large variation may be a disadvantage. Additional discussion centered around the consequences of a January deadline on subsequent activities that the Registrar's Offices implements once grades are submitted, including suspension notices, financial aid notification, students need to register for a J-term class, Dean's Offices processing suspensions, etc.

The committee agreed to have the Dean's and/or their reps survey their faculty and bring back to the next committee meeting an answer to the question: "How many days do faculty need for grading after the last final exam?"

Motion was tabled.

A suggestion was made to add to the committee's future agenda a discussion of Due Dates for Summer Session Grades. Students taking a class in the first session are not getting grades until the end of the summer and there have been student complaints about the timing.

Meeting adjourned 9:52am.

Next meeting will be November 10, 9am.