Academic Standards Committee

Minutes of April 20, 2011

Members present: Tricia Davis, Andriel Dees, Terry Ferriss (Chair), Darryl Miller, Mike Martin (for Perkins), Stacey Stoffregen, Daniel Vande Yacht, Brian Schultz (for Potts).

1. Meeting called to order at 8 am.
2. Motion to approve minutes of April 7 meeting (Vande Yacht/Davis) passed
3. There was a discussion about what is printed on a student’s diploma. Several students have asked why the name of their major does not appear on their diploma. Issues:
   • Diplomas are part of the celebratory / pageantry of graduation in U.S.; transcripts are the official document of achievement in U.S. culture
   • Diplomas that are displayed can be great PR tools
   • Current practices have been in place a long time and do not necessarily reflect the ability of technology to efficiently print alternative information on the diplomas.
   • Regents award Degrees – not award majors; majors are noted on transcripts
   • UWRF current practice is not consistent across the university. Education and CAFES have some majors on diplomas but not all of the majors. For most it is the name of the Degree ( BA, BFA, BS, BSW, BMA, etc) that is printed along with the name of the college.
   • UW-Stout , UW- Platteville and UW- Superior all print the names of majors on their diplomas. There appears to be flexibility within the UW System as to what goes on the diploma.

Committee consensus: Current UWRF practice is not consistent and should be revised to at least be consistent. Consideration for inclusion of the names of student’s majors should be considered during the revision process. Due to the academic connection with names of programs the committee has asked that the Assistant/Associate Dean’s working group review this issue and bring back a recommendation to this committee no later than during Fall Semester 2011.

4. A suggestion, forwarded from the Assistant/Associate Dean’s working group, to revise the 8.2.8 Drop and Add Policy was discussed. The problem with the current policy is that student’s frequently do not know how they stand academically in classes after the first 6 weeks. The number of late drop requests due to students wanting to drop after they get their first grade in
a class is significantly large and creates a lot of extra workload and processing for a lot of people.

Current policy with suggested revisions:

**SUGGESTED REVISION to 8.2.8 Drop and Add Policy**
*(changes in bold and italics; strike-through the current wording)*

Students can drop or add online without a faculty signature during the first seven calendar [five class] days of the term (as long as there is space available).

To drop or add a class after the first five days of class, students must obtain a drop-add card from the Office of the Registrar and get their instructor's advisor's signature and the advisor's instructor's signature on the form. Classes may not be added after the first five days of class except with permission of the instructor and advisor.

Students can drop a class during the first 15 class days of the semester without any record on their transcript.

Students can drop a class within 16-50 class days with "W" recorded on their transcript. If a student drops a class after 30 days, it will be considered a late drop and must be approved by the respective Dean's Office. Students are not allowed to drop a course after 50 days without the approval of the respective Dean’s Office.

Only one "W" will be allowed to appear on the transcript of any student in a given class or course.

After discussion the committee developed the following suggestion which will be voted upon at the next meeting:

Proposed **NEW POLICY** would state:

Students can drop or add online without a faculty signature during the first 7 calendar days of the term. To drop or add a class after the first 7 calendar days of the term, students must obtain a drop-add card and get their instructor's signature and the advisor's signature on the form. Students can drop a class during the first 15 class days of the semester without any record on their transcript. Students can drop a class within 16-50 class days with "W" recorded on their transcript. Students are not allowed to drop a course after 50 days without the approval of the respective Dean’s Office. For classes meeting for less than a full term, the drop dates will be prorated accordingly.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 am.