

THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
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(AS-11)

March 20, 2017

Members excused: O. Benavides, R. Maldonado, A. McKeith, R. Raya-Fernandez, S. Schlievert, G. Thatcher, C. Wang

Members absent: L. Cornelio, J. Giglio, M. Golden, A. Hammons, S. Shinn, L. Toren-Immerman

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:06pm in HML 2206.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of March 6, 2017

MSC approving the Minutes of March 6, 2017

3.) Communications and announcements

a. Provost Zelezny

Thanked faculty who came to the recent free speech and civil rights lecture.

Announced that the university is likely to search for 45 new full-time faculty positions next year.

Noted that the search for a new AVP for International Affairs is wrapping up, the search for an AVP for Water and Sustainability is ongoing, and the search for a new AVP for Faculty Affairs will be

starting this semester but concluding in the fall. Also noted that the search for a new library dean is beginning.

Announced the April 19 free lecture by Thomas Friedman at the Save Mart Center.

b. Chair Ayotte

Apologized for sending an email earlier with links to videos from the Student Success Summit that were not captioned. This is being corrected.

4.) Installation of new senators

Beng Ong
Department of Marketing and Logistics

John Karr
Department of Music

Bradley Hart
Department of Media, Communication, and Journalism

5.) New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

6.) APM 215 – New language on ePortfolios for General Education assessment.
Second reading.

Senator Ram (University-wide) presented a series of amendments.

Maxine McDonald (Student Success Services) said that Student Affairs has been thinking about adding new registration holds for students at 45 and 100 units so having an assessment check at 100 units would fit in well with their own plans. Currently, there is no hold right now after 75 units and so no opportunity to remind students of any requirements they still need to fulfill.

A new subsection b) within new section E clarifying how students will submit their assignments to an ePortfolio system was moved and

seconded, and then modified with a friendly amendment from Senator Henson (English).

Senators expressed concern about who is telling students which assignment they have to submit through the ePortfolio and how to write it. Dr. Jordine (Direct of Assessment) confirmed that faculty members decide on which assignment complies with GE policy.

Senator Sullivan (Sociology) asked if the new language should also apply to transfer students. A friendly amendment was offered and accepted to make it clear that this new policy includes transfer students.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) asked how students will learn how to submit assignments through the ePortfolio. Dr. Jordine said there would be both written and video material to show students how to do it.

The amendment was approved.

Another amendment was moved and seconded for a new subsection c) requiring students to submit the designated assignment at the end of each of their GE courses.

Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies) asked how students will know which assignment to submit since they often do not bother to read the syllabus. Dr. Jordine said that a webpage might be created specifically telling students which assignment they need to submit for each GE course.

Senator Karr (Music) asked how far in advance the proposed GE Subcommittee would need syllabi so they could make this webpage. Dr. Jordine said that information would not have to be submitted early in the semester because students do not need to submit assignments until the end of the semester.

Other technical questions about the submission process were asked and answered.

Senator Gilewicz (English) noted that we are talking about thousands of assignments each year. Why did there have to be so many and why did students have to submit 16? Dr. Jordine said so many were needed so that a representative sample could be properly drawn from them.

Submission only took about 45 seconds each, so submitting 16 course assignments should not be any serious burden on students.

Senator Wilson (Computer Sciences) asked if an automatic system could be set up, with student assignments immediately and automatically being uploaded to Pathbrite. Senator Schettler (Africana Studies) said this would require all faculty to then use Pathbrite. Dr. Jordine was not sure this was possible to do.

Senator Alexandrou (Industrial Technology) felt these new amendments were too detailed for a policy document. Could we work with something more streamlined? Senator Ram indicated that her amendments were somewhat detailed because she felt faculty wanted certain principles locked into the process by which GE Assessment would work.

Senator Kensinger noted that students not immediately submitting their assignments might, after a while, forget what assignment counted and might not be able to find their syllabus to figure it out. Dr. Jordine said that students could submit several items and the GE Subcommittee could figure out which assignment connected to which GE area. Senator Kensinger moved additional language to the amendment specifying compliance “when possible”. The secondary amendment was seconded

Senator Botwin spoke against the secondary amendment, arguing that this could lead students to randomly submit dozens of assignments hoping that one of them would be accepted. Senator Gilewicz also expressed her concern that faculty will have to remind students to submit their work. Dr. Jordine indicated that advisors would largely be responsible for reminding students.

The secondary amendment was approved.

On the primary amendment, Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) and Senator Raheem (Counselor Education and Rehabilitation) expressed concern that possibly confusing language on how many assignments students needed to submit could be exploited by students, allowing them to submit too few. Senator Henson argued that the amendment was not overly confusing and did a good job solving the problem.

The primary amendment was approved.

Another amendment was moved and seconded for new subsection c) requiring students to write two lower level GE reflections and one upper level GE reflection.

Senator Gilewicz felt that students are going to need to be taught how to write these reflections. Senator Ram indicated that guidelines would be provided to them.

Senator Karr asked if the guidelines will be written by the proposed GE Subcommittee or the faculty? Dr. Jordine said that subcommittee would do it since these reflections are not about any one particular class.

Senator Jenkins (Mechanical Engineering) asked who would be responsible for making sure each reflection was at least 300 words. Senator Ram said that this would probably not be necessary but an advisor could verify that the student submitted an actual reflection.

Fearing plagiarism, Senator Botwin offered a friendly amendment indicating that the reflections must be original work. The friendly amendment was accepted.

Senator Gilewicz argued that because these three reflections are outside of course requirements they are an unnecessary new burden on students.

Senator Kensinger asked Dr. Jordine if these reflections were required by WASC. No, they are not. However, Dr. Jordine felt there was evidence that reflections were a good learning tool and would provide information on the performance of the whole GE program, something we currently do not have.

Senator Garcia (Nursing) asked whether we are likely to get anything useful out of 300-word reflections. Senator Ram argued that they would probably be valuable.

Senator Forcags (Mathematics) asked if students might submit other reflections that they have written for classes. No, these should be reflections on a number of courses in a GE area, not an individual class.

The amendment was approved (11 abstentions)

Another amendment was moved and seconded for new subsection c) making it clear that transfer students only needed to submit assignments for their upper division GE.

The amendment was approved (1-nay, 1-abstention).

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:15pm. The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on Monday, April 3, 2017.

Submitted by
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate