

Academic Standards Committee
Minutes of October 27, 2011

Members present: Trudy Gift, Kevin Crawford for Jennifer Haughie, Bernie Murphy for Veronica Stein, Melinda May, Dave Warner, Melanie Rowland, LuAnne Fisher, Suzannah Moran, Jeff Morgan

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Dave Warner.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with a date correction for the next meeting.

After a review of the new charges from the Governing Council, the following discussion ensued:

#1. Develop a policy that does not allow students who fail an online class and have a low GPA to register for online classes unless they build their average up to the specified GPA.

In an email from Jennifer Haughie and Jackie Simmons, it was determined that currently only a few students have failed an online class; in fact, the number of students who failed a web section in 10/FA and also in 11/SP was 16. Most of those were “taken care of” when placed on probation or dismissed. Eight students had a GPA above 2.0. For 11/SP and 11/SU, only 12 and 4 respectively scored under a 2.0 GPA.

Jennifer commented, “It would be a real challenge to enforce this policy, and we have so few students who fall into this category”. If we continue with this requirement, it could affect future online degree-only students.

Other divisions questioned if this proposed policy charge were the result of a real or perceived problem, and questioned how many students actually failed the course subject matter or “walked away” from the course and received an “F”.

After some discussion, Dr. Warner decided to take the lead to draft a recommendation that we discontinue this proposed policy.

#2. Develop a policy for academic integrity that outlines what the College expects of an academic community.

Using the suggestion that we follow Carroll Community College’s policy, the following link is being sent: <http://www.carrollcc.edu/about/policies/integrity.asp>

Members are asked to review the site and bring back comments, suggestions, recommendations for the next meeting.

#3. Develop a policy for professional development for faculty, which outlines expectations for staying current in the field, sabbaticals, etc.

Melinda will take the lead by researching other colleges for how they stay current in their field. Suggested ways of staying current in the field included:

- Workshops/seminar
- Webinars
- College degree vs certifications
- Learning on your own (Moodling)
- Workshops on campus not counted as professional development
- Return to industry
- Instructor for externships
- Observe other instructor's classes
- Sabbaticals (related to college priorities – how is the college benefiting)
- Textbook Review (paid) – adoption of that textbook needs to be checked
- Bring this up at the division
- Guest lecturing

We should start by defining professional development: what constitutes professional development. We will continue this discussion.

#4. Develop a policy regarding the minimum number of credits at the “200 level” required for a student to graduate. Kevin Crawford will take the lead on this issue and will send us information to share at the next meeting. This applies to an associate degree only.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.

Next meeting is January 26, 2012, at 2:30 pm in LRC-102.

Trudy Gift
Recorder