**Senate Committee Annual Report**

Senate Committee: **Academic Policies Committee 2014-15**

1. What are the primary duties of this committee?

The Academic Policies Committee shall recommend policies regarding admission, transfer, general academic regulations and graduation.

2. What did you plan to accomplish this year?

* The committee first met in January, 2015. Our initial to-do list included items listed on the 2013-14 end-of-the-year report plus some new items:
* Clarifying the missed class policy for athletes participating in post-season/tournament play
* Clarifying status of the Learning Commons program
* Clarifying a number of issues relating to Summer Session and academic standing, how summer “counts” for academic progress, grade roll/parts of term issues, defining summer overload limits for both grad/undergrad students
* Credit for Prior Learning policies, particularly for the Innovation and Leadership major
* Discussing the current minimum proficiency standard for University Studies—should it be raised to a C- for ALL “strands” not just writing, speech, and quantitative reasoning?
* Minor requirements overlapping with major requirements, “double dipping” limits
* Updating policy on grades for practicum classes: currently ONLY P/NP but should programs have the option to assign A-F grades?
* Discussing how many repeated activity courses with PEA/OAL/PE prefixes O students in the OAL major could have
* Updating language re: IETLS scores for International Programs
* Updating the BA/BS degree lists in light of Curriculum Committee decisions and new course prefixes (e.g. INL, etc.)

3. What did the committee accomplish during this academic year?

Updated the Athletic Absence policy, in consultation with AD Matt Sayre, creating a process by which student athletes will work with faculty re:post-season tournament absences

Created a Credit for Prior Learning policy/process for the Innovation and Leadership major (passed by Faculty Senate 5/18/15), in response to requirements for CPL rules from our accrediting body. Included Moneeka Settles, INL coordinator in this discussion.

Revised policy regarding “counting” summer session grades toward determining academic standing, effective with the 15-16 catalog year (passed by Senate on 5/18/15)

Updated language on IELTS. Updated the BA/BS degree lists for new course prefixes and other curricular changes

Started discussion on policy/process for moving students from pre-major to full-major status more effectively; discussion how the pre-major is used in a variety of ways by programs; discussion of how programs should work with advising staff to counsel some students who are failing to meet program requirements in majors. Included Lisa Garcia-Hanson in this discussion.

4. What issues and/or additional responsibilities arose this year that influenced the work of the committee?

Because the committee was not convened until January, we had to schedule extra meetings in order to make more progress on our evolving to-do list. We will be sure to start meeting early in fall term during AY15-16.

We expect to meet bi-weekly all year next year.

5. Given what you have learned this year, what goals do you recommend this senate committee focus upon in the upcoming year?

See list below:

**Tasks to carry over into 15-16 Academic Policies Committee**

1. See **Special Academic Credit catalog section** as we work on **CPL** next year: everyone should do their summer reading!! [http://catalog.sou.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=749](http://catalog.sou.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=749" \t "_blank)
2. **Pre-major codes**—what to do about them; advising students “out” of majors rather than letting them get “stuck” as pre-majors. Starting this conversation 5/22/15 with Lisa Garcia Hanson; include Admissions and Advising staff whenever needed.
3. **Grade options** for Practicum (P/NP or opt?):  later (see April 10, 2015 minutes for next steps). Need to gather more data on this topic…what’s happening in programs. “*This issue may require involvement of the* ***Assessment*** *folks because of the variation in oversight/substance; We also agreed that we may need to extend the conversation to others, such as Assessment Committee and Division Directors to address some larger questions surrounding the designations Practicum and Internship and how they are defined and assessed.”*
4. **Proficiency standard** (will need broad input) for all US/gen eds: defining “met” level--?**C-**?
5. **Academic progress** definition alignment with fin aid: follow up with Pat McAuley, for fall 15 agendas
6. **Learning Commons** review  **(***Not sure where the 2012 rules are in the catalog; Echo has old email trail from 2011-12 on the LC issues, when we’re ready).* Follow up with Jeffrey Gayton
7. **Minor/major** **double-dipping:** for fall term 15 agendas
8. Coming attraction**:  grad max credit—relates to the summer session maximum—reconciling catalog content issue.** Will need to talk with Education, Theater, Grad council to try to get to one limit for all terms.
9. follow up: OAL/PEA/PE  Pass/No Pass **repeatable  course policy** Will revisit this, if needed.
10. Follow up from committee **minutes from May 13, 2013**: **Did this ever happen**: ***Task force*** *to define process for approving mathematics, designated programming courses, designated statistics courses, or designated logic courses to count* ***towards BS.***Assoc. provost (Walsh) reported that she hoped that the task force would have a proposal to share at the next meeting.

Senate Committee Report Form/Associate Provost/2011