**Senate Committee Annual Report**

Academic Policies

AY15-16

**Senate Committee:**

**1. What are the primary duties of this committee?**

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

**2. What did you plan to accomplish this year?**

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| **Carried over from AY14-15**: * Get feedback on how credit for prior learning/prior life experience is working in the Innovation & Leadership program and how SOU will be expected to expand that option into other programs;
* Consider changes to the use of pre-major codes
* Changing grade option for practicum from P/NP only to instructor/program option
* Aligning definition of academic progress with financial aid rules (waiting on having new fin aid director in place)
* Monitor new “Bridge” program, impacts on priority reg
* Review various academic programs/departments rules on allowing major/minor “double-dipping”
* Craft consistent rules on maximum number of graduate credit hours (summer session issue)
* Begin discussion of review of BA/BS requirements (provost task force perhaps?)
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**3. What did the committee accomplish during this academic year?**

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| The policy changes below were approved at Faculty Senate meeting, May 2, 2016:**Cross listing & cross-referenced course** policy clarification was put on our agenda by Division Directors and Program Chairs in November 2015. After much discussion and input from various programs, we successfully clarified definitions of cross-listing & cross-referencing and created a process that offered program flexibility/discretion along with oversight by the Curriculum Committee. **Graduate credit hour maximums**: Programs have discretion and at the recommendation of Graduate Council, there is no one-size-fits-all limit. Programs/advisors have responsibility to counsel students appropriately effective in AY16-17. During fall 2017, Grad Council should review how the new policy worked in AY16-17.**Practicum/internship grade option**: Departments/programs will have some discretion over whether students get P/NP or letter grades. Practica/internships that are supervised by SOU faculty may be taken for a grade; practica/internships that are supervised externally (not by SOU faculty) may be taken P/NP only. **Priority registration**: Success at Southern requested adding students in that program to the priority registration list. This prompted a broader discussion of how many students now have priority registration rights. There are two “tiers” of priority registration: we added Success students to those who can register one week after the first day of registration, if not already eligible to enroll. This prompted a longer conversation in Faculty Senate about how many categories of student are eligible for priority registration. The policy change was approved by Senate, with the understanding that Policies would continue to monitor the impact.  |

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

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| It would be helpful if the Senate Committee on Committees could **get committee membership established earlier in fall term** each year: we didn’t have members in place until December which limited the progress we could make to things we could get done in two terms. This is NOT a “light duty” committee: bi-weekly meetings along with institutional memory and attention to the consequences of change to varied stakeholders is necessary.We need to clarify **division of labor/responsibilities between the Academic Policies Committee and the Curriculum Committee** on some issues. We coordinated with Curriculum Committee on the crosslisting/crossreferencing issue this year but it’s not always clear about what issues belong on which committee’s agenda. Guidance from the Provost’s office would be helpful, particular on issues that require follow-up from year to year. **Tasks carried over to 16-17*** Certificates policies (see the “double dipping” issue below)
* Priority registration—review impact, modify eligibility. in line for priority registration in the future are the Jackson/Josephine County Pledge; Bridge program students. Are there too many categories of students on the priority reg list?
* BS/BA degree requirements oversight (carried over for several years at this point)
* CPL/Prior learning: Special Academic Credit catalog section INL is reviewing a couple of portfolios) See policy from AY14-15: what to add? Remove?
* Pre-major codes—what to do about them (see Apr. 10 2015 minutes for details)
* Proficiency standard for all US/gen eds: defining “met” level--? C-? or can Ds get degrees?
* Academic progress definition alignment with fin aid’s 50% rule: academic standing/warning status. Matt will let us know when to do this; fin aid director will be in place soon (stay tuned)
* Minor/major double-dipping: Where are the problems? In which programs? what about certificates; is this a “program discretion” issue rather than an institutional policy issue? What do these credentials “mean?”
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