

STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic Policy Committee (APC)

Minutes of Academic Policy Committee

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

12:10pm - 12:50pm Online via TEAMS meeting

The attending committee members : Sarah Benes; Owen Biesel; Maria Diamantis (co-chair); Rex Gilliland; John Nwangwu; Sebastian Perumbilly; Melanie Uribe (Co-chair); Jia Yu

Guests: Meghan Barboza (UCF Chair), Barbara Cook (Graduate Council Chair), Amy Feest (Senior Director of Online and Continued Education).

The committee was called to order by Co-Chair Melanie at 12:12 pm.

The following Agenda items were discussed – no action was taken:

1. Online Curriculum and Learning Ad hoc committee - Co-chair Melanie had attached to the email with the committee's agenda, the document created by the Continuing Education Ad Hoc Committee, with definitions and procedures on this topic; the document was approved by FS but rejected by Administration.

Co-chair Melanie introduced Dr. Amy Feest who thanked us for inviting her.

- ◆ She has very strong feeling that what we will offer should reflect a rigorous, strong program (for credit or non-credit) so that the participants will receive appropriate certificate or digital badges, with high credentials. Currently Charter Oak, Central, and system offices are using the Credly badges and since we are one system, the system bought the certificates at a very cheap rate. Dr. Feest is talking to Mary Pat to create a template for SCSU, personalized and for credit or not.
- ◆ In response to a question that we should follow the same governance as any curriculum approval process, Dr. Feest felt strongly that this is not the same and should not follow the same governance as curriculum. She feels the current steps will delay approvals and we will not be competitive. She believes that the approvals will go quicker and even over the summer when faculty are not on contract.
- ◆ She stated that the process as defined right now includes
 - a) a general form with suggested program, will go directly to Dr. Feest; she will initially investigate if the program is viable and marketable, thus competitive.
 - b) Dr. Feest will present the program to Dr. Irwin, Interim Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, for first approval.
 - c) Next approval will be the Dean of the appropriate School or College; and if the appropriate Dean approves, then, the advisory board (don't know members yet) will review everything and give final approval.

- d) It will be presented to the Curriculum Committee so that they are informed of the proposed program. (UCF and GC do not agree with being notified at the end of the process)
- ◆ This process will be faster and done by means of emails, thus, the approvals will happen in a week or two. If we follow internal curriculum vetting it will kill continuing education.
 - ◆ Any faculty with expertise in an area can recommend any certificate programs – which could be shorter courses of an existing curriculum which can be broken to shorter course versions for the creation of certificates.
 - ◆ A suggestion was offered that Dr. Feest provides a document which will map out the plans for programs as well as the steps of approvals. She is working on such document.
 - ◆ Currently we offer three continuing education program:
 - 1st : the drone academy;
 - 2nd : the certificate for CMMC, department of defense on cyber security (we did not develop this curriculum); and
 - 3rd: MindEdge. With the current MindEdge system, we have the ability to turn-on or turn-off any courses/certificate offered; and we also have the option to review the offerings at a deeper level to assess if the course its in direct competition with Southern offerings or not.
 - ◆ Furthermore, Dr. Feest was asked to provide some data on programs that exist here or elsewhere to justify their offerings and thus, provide further information and data on their revenue and enrollment, for our information.
2. Faculty Retraining Committee and review of document – the new committee chair is Dr. Alain D’Amour and we have a meeting schedule on 10/5 to discuss the existing document, even though a calendar for AY 2023-2024 has been proposed.
 3. Bookstore Issues – the committee will gather more information; departments and faculty should submit their orders on a timely manner. The plan is to invite Lauren Taylor (Bookstore manager) to our meeting for further discussion and data information of ENG 100 and ENG 112; and to discuss process for departments to submit mass orders rather than specific classes.
 4. Impact of AI on Academic Misconduct. This item was NOT ADDRESSED
 5. Continue review of P&T reform projects. This item was NOT ADDRESSED.

There is a new item which we might need to discuss: Midterm grades and need for faculty to provide them to students.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Diamantis, APC co-chair