

Academic Affairs Meeting
April 1, 2009
Singer Hall Room 130-A
3:00 p.m.

- 1. Members Attending:** Dr. Jill Baker, Dr. Ken Bentson, Dr. Jim Burns, Stephanie Butts, Student Senate Secretary, Dr. Joan Gallini, Professor Andre Garcia Nuthmann, (Proxy for Professor Lobdell), Dr. John Jeffries, Dr. Brandon Kempner, Dr. Pete LeRoy, Dr. Emmanuel Nkwenti, Dr. Mario Rodriguez, and Dr. Kristie Ross Dr. Arlie Tagayuna, Ms. Josephine Sena-Gutierrez, and Dr. Mary Shaw.

Ex-Officio Members:

Absent: Dr. John Hayes, Dr. Linda LaGrange, Mr. John Coca, Dr. Donna Woodford and Professor David Lobdell

Others Present: Dr. Barbara Risch, and Jill Baskerville

- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Dr. Ken Bentson made a motion to approve the agenda for March 4, 2009 with a correction to Item 8.2.-Freshman Year Programs, not First Year Experience. Professor Jill Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- 3. Approval of Minutes-February 4 & 18, 2009 and March 4, 2009**

Dr. Ken Bentson made a motion to approve the February 4th Minutes. Dr. Jill Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed with three abstentions.

Dr. Jill Baker made a motion to approve the February 18th Minutes as amended. Dr. Ken Bentson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

March 4, 2009 minutes were not available.

- 4. Report from Dr. Linda LaGrange, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs**
No report at this time.

- 5. Report from Registrar – John Coca, Registrar**
No report at this time.

- 6. Report from Subcommittees & Ballen Endowment**

Undergraduate Subcommittee: Dr. Ross indicated that 3 petitions have been reviewed and processed, with one pending.

Graduate Subcommittee: Dr. Ken Bentson indicated that one petition needs review and requested that the Graduate Committee stay on after the meeting.

Ballen Endowment: Dr. Kempner reported that the second Ballen Endowment Scholar is visiting the University, Paul Zolbrod. His presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th, entitled, “*The Rosy Fingers a Navajo Dawn: Waking up to a Reservation Sunrise.*” His presentation will be held in Singer Hall, Room 100 at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Kempner also indicated that the Business Office informed him that the Ballen Endowment is down because it was invested in the Stock Market. After Dr. Zolbrod's visit, the remaining balance is \$9,000. The Business Office has suggested that the money be reinvested into the Stock Market.

Centers: Dr. Joan Gallin indicated that student's applications for student teaching are being reviewed.

7. Old Business

7.1. Faculty Senate Charge: "Review and Advice Discontinuance of Program or Department Not Mandated by Financial Exigency and Appeals Procedure (Section VLL.2, 3)"

Dr. Brandon Kempner said that the Faculty Handbook states, "that it is this Committee's responsibility to hear items that are not mandated by Financial Exigency." The same language was written into the Collective Bargaining agreement states that the Administration will handle it. Dr. Kempner indicated that the Collective Bargaining Agreement supersedes anything in the Faculty Handbook. He indicated that he wasn't sure that the Academic Affairs Committee has any role in this mandate. Dr. Kempner stated that he will email Dr. Romine and ask if there is anything further that the Academic Affairs Committee needs to do.

7.2. Faculty Senate Charge: "Academic Integrity Policy for repeated cheater, and possibility of subscribing to sites that provide students with papers." – Dr. Ken Bentson

Dr. Kempner expressed his concern over the \$250 fee that students will be required to pay for costs of the hearing before the University and before students are allowed to register for classes. Dr. Bentson indicated that the student(s) would be required to pay the \$250 fee if they are found in violation of the policy. The fee will be implemented after the student is caught cheating twice in two different classes. Dr. Bentson indicated that the subcommittee that reviewed this policy, felt that students caught cheating, should be failed from the class immediately. The purpose of the fee is to cover the cost of hearing the student's appeal. Dr. Kempner felt that the cost was too high.

Dr. Kempner also expressed concern over the fact that a student that is expelled a third time for academic dishonesty, will not be able to appeal. He felt that some due process should be in order. Dr. Bentson stated that this statement could be removed from the policy.

Dr. Jeffries requested that the word "verbally" be replaced with the word "written" on page 2, Item 2. (**Attached**) Also a request was made that faculty retain documentation for 5 years, instead of 4.

Discussion also included:

- Faculty should use discretion in applying this process.
- Have Legal Council review the policy.
- Rewrite the verbiage on page 2, regarding the penalties for academic dishonesty.
- Policy will apply to both the Undergraduate and Graduate students.

- Policy will be included in the Faculty Handbook. A slightly different version will be included in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Maintain a database.
- Raise student awareness of the penalties for violating the policy.
- Students Affairs would be responsible for notifying faculty of students that have been flagged for cheating.
- How will ITV students be monitored?

Dr. Jim Burns made a motion to implement a one-time \$250 fee, after the student has been caught cheating twice. Dr. Mary Shaw seconded. A vote was taken, 3 in favor, 8 opposed, 1 abstention. Motion denied.

Dr. Jill Baker made a motion to strike the sentence that states, “A student that is expelled for the third instance of academic dishonesty cannot appeal.” Dr. Ken Bentson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jim Burns made a motion to make the grammar changes necessary. Dr. Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Kent Bentson made a final motion to approve the Faculty Senate Charge: “Academic Integrity Policy for repeated cheater, and possibility of subscribing to sites that provide students with papers.” Dr. Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

8. New Business

8.1. Request Course Change-First Year Experience

Ms. Jill Baskerville requested that the First Year Experience course be made a permanent course, instead of a Selected Topic, based on the fact that this course has been a Selected Topic for the past 3 years.

Dr. Brandon Kempner indicated that with forthcoming changes, he didn’t feel that it was appropriate to make the First Year Experience course a permanent course at this time. Before voting on making the course permanent, Dr. Kempner recommended that Dr. Barbara Risch provide her report on Freshman Year Programs.

8.2. Discussion-Freshman Year Programs

Dr. Barbara Risch reported that Freshman Year Programs will be to recreate Learning Communities. A core course will be paired with a composition course, whether it is a 100, 111 or 112-level course. An example would be, pairing an Art course, which is a Learning Community course with a 111 Freshman Composition course. The topic and theme will be Art. Dr. Risch indicated that the Learning Community courses will be offered both, during the Spring and Fall semesters. Dr. Risch indicated that the FYE course would have an ENGL designation, in place of an INDP.

A one-credit hour course will be instituted; and will be attached to courses that have 20 students or less. The faculty member will have an extra credit hour for advising.

First Year Experience courses will be held with the English 100-level developmental courses. In addition, the English course to be tried with a Selected Topic course, College Discourse, to put literacy in context of other communicative events going on college.

In summarizing, Dr. Risch, indicated that there will be two different courses with the English 100, eight of them are First Year Experience, and four of them are English 135, College Discourse. In addition, there will be nine Learning Community courses with Composition classes and run the one-credit hour advising.

Dr. Risch indicated that there is a plan to develop Introductory Courses that address broader fields of study, that students will have an easier time deciding on a major. By means of this process, bring advising back to the faculty. Dr. Risch indicated that the purpose of First Year Programs will improve retention efforts, bring advising back to faculty and help students decide on a field. Topics of discussion included:

- How will it affect students already enrolled in a Learning Community course?
- Currently, there are 20 Learning Communities that have gone to print, how will this change impact students already enrolled for the Fall semester?
- Dr. Jim Burns requested that a formal presentation to the University Community.

After further discussion, the Committee recommended to form an Ad-Hoc Subcommittee that will help to organize the First Year Program. The committee agreed to have Dr. Risch attend the May 3rd meeting for further discussion.

Before adjourning, Dr. Ken Bentson made a motion to table the Request Course Change-First Year Experience. Dr. Jill Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 9. Adjournment**—Dr. Jill Baker made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Ken Bentson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.