

MINUTES  
Academic Council  
December 3, 2013

The Academic Council met on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 8 am in the President's Conference Room, Sheridan Hall 306.

Members attending: Mark Bannister, Jeff Briggs, Tim Crowley, Paul Faber, Dennis King, Shala Mills, Rob Scott and Chris Crawford, Chair

The meeting was called to order.

1. Area of Emphasis, Minors and Certificates Definition from the University Catalog

Dr. Crawford believes the minor definition is accurate as is in the Catalog and no change is needed. There are only two areas of emphasis and those are accurate as well. The area of contention is the definition of a certificate. There is a lack of consistency and formality of the certificate programs offered. Dr. Crawford would like to work with the Registrar's Office to start tracking certificates. There should be a formal process to receive approval for a certificate. He understands there are policy issues that need to be addressed. Things to consider is the value-added for the student, number of hours (inside and outside of the major) and how will this affect the departments SCH production. A current list of the areas of emphasis, minors and certificates will be placed on the next agenda.

2. Pass/No Credit Policy

Competency based education is based on pass/no credit. The University has been accepting this type of credit from accredited institutions. The Council reviewed the proposed changes and accepted the most liberal version presented by Dr. Faber. This will go into effect immediately and changes need to be made to the catalog. Dr. Crawford also needs to notify Faculty Senate about this change.

3. United Way Report

This item is to provide information about the historical pattern of giving broken out by divisions. This year's report was provided which indicates the University did not reach its goal.

4. Eight-Week Course Grade Deadline

As agreed at a previous Provost's Council, the University is changing the practice of turning in grades for eight-week courses. Dennis King has talked to Joey Linn about sending out a note to faculty when grades are due for eight-week courses (which was agreed to be one week after the class ended).

5. Online Suicide Prevention Training for Faculty and Staff

Dr. Crawford asked for input on the best way to roll this out to faculty and staff. Suggestions from the Council included: ask the chairs and dean to follow up or send out a note to faculty/staff. Any suggestions should be sent to Chris ASAP.

6. AAC&U Conference: General Education and Assessment

Dr. Crawford would like each of the department chairs and deans to attend a Chairs Conference. He is willing to provide support for five or six to attend each year. The names of potential attendees should be sent to Chris Crawford.

7. SALT Meetings

A copy of the minutes and agenda of the most recent SALT meetings were attached to the agenda. These will also be available on the Provost's Blackboard website.

8. Strategy for Virtual College Expansion positions

The Council discussed the strategy for creating positions as part of the Virtual College expansion. The deans were asked to send their requests to Dr. Crawford before the end of the semester.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.