Academic Standards Committee
22 September 2010
2007 Ullsvik Hall

MINUTES

In Attendance: Kevin Haertzen, Mike Dalecki, Phil Sealy, Jeff Huebschman, David Krugler, Irfan Ul-Haq, Dave Van Buren, Mark Albers, Roxane Gunser.
Guests: Joanne Wilson

1. Gunser moved and Dalecki seconded to approve the minutes of the 28 April 2010 meeting as distributed. Motion passed. (Sealy will type up the minutes from the 8 September 2010 meeting for distribution and approval at the next meeting.)

2. Academic Misconduct Policy: Dalecki reviewed the status and purposes of this proposed policy, submitted to the Faculty Senate last semester and tabled at the senate’s last meeting pending ASC preparations to present the policy. To review, the purpose is to prevent students who fail due to academic misconduct from simply retaking the course at a later date, the second grade then being the only one that counts in the student’s GPA. If enacted, this policy would permanently indicate on the transcript that the F resulted from misconduct. (For more see the document on the ASC share drive.) Discussion followed of the extent of cheating on the campus, the likelihood of increased student appeals, and overall faculty support. Dalecki and Sealy will represent the ASC and the policy at the next Faculty Senate meeting; other members are encouraged to attend as well. The UW System statutes on academic misconduct can be found here: http://www.uwplatt.edu/university/documents/student_policies/chapter14.html

3. Admissions and Academic Appeals Committee: 5 proposed policy changes: The AAAC submitted 5 changes regarding its policies, personnel, and procedures. A document detailing and explaining the changes can be found on the ASC share drive. Joanne Wilson briefed the committee. The changes result from more than a year’s discussion by the AAAC. Due to the volume of appeals, it typically must break into three separate groups to evaluate cases. Students are exploiting loopholes in current policies, adding to the AAAC’s caseload; these changes will hopefully close the loopholes. Discussion of the individual changes followed. Highlights of the discussion include:

- Haertzen’s concern that positions such as the First Year Experience should be filled by tenure-track faculty, not academic staff or non-teaching staff; accordingly, only faculty should have voting rights on the AAAC.

- Incomplete Policy: several ASC members expressed concern that the proposed policy is invalid, specifically, that Deans cannot change a grade from an I to a F in the prescribed situation (see document) because only the instructor of record can alter a grade. Van Buren explained that a recent court case in the nation established the precedent of allowing administrative alteration of a grade without the instructor’s
consent in certain situations. The bearing of the case on UW-Platteville policies is as yet unknown. The ASC asked that the AAAC change the language of the Incomplete policy to align it with established grade prerogatives.

➢ Other policies: Members expressed support for the remaining changes.

Krugler moved and Dalecki seconded a motion for the ASC to endorse all five proposed policy changes for the AAAC with the understanding that the Incomplete grade rule would be amended per the discussion noted above. The motion passed on a voice vote with one dissent.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Submitted by David Krugler