

General Faculty Meeting
Feb. 21, 2018
2:00PM – 3:15PM
Donahue Auditorium

Minutes

Faculty Council members present: Brent Brossmann (vice-chair), Emily Butler (chair), Mina Chercourt, Gwen Compton-Engle, Ruth Connell, Greg DiLisi, Jeff Dyck, Kris Ehrhardt (secretary), Brendan Foreman, Marcus Gallo, Nathan Gehlert, Richard Greci, Brad Hull, Dan Kilbride, Bo Liu, Michael Martin, Frank Navratil, Naveed Piracha, David Shutkin, Kristen Tobey, Mariah Webinger. Absent: Medora Barnes, Larry Cima, Paul Shick.

Quorum at 2:06.

- Chair's announcements
 - Minutes of Jan. 24, 2018 faculty meeting posted on the Faculty Council website were approved by acclamation.
 - Important dates
 - Feb. 28: Remarks from incoming president Michael Johnson
 - Mar. 14: Faculty Council meeting
 - Mar. 21: General faculty meeting
 - UCEP policies under review: <http://sites.jcu.edu/committees/home/ucep-university-committee-on-educational-policies/ucep-policies-under-review/>
 - Until Feb. 26:
 - Degree Completion Time Limit
 - Grade Change Time Limit
 - Summer Graduates Participating in Spring Commencement
 - Student Responsibility
 - Transcript Notation and Conduct Letter Policy
 - Until March 1:
 - Course Attempt
 - Grade Exclusion
- Remarks from the Provost: Provost Santilli was sick and unable to attend; remarks postponed until March faculty meeting.
- UCEP proposals discussion
 - Catherine Sherman (Assistant Dean, Academic Advising) and Angela Kruger (Registrar's office) presented an overview of UCEP and its work. As one of the 4 university committees, it started meeting in May 2017; the group features cross-campus collaboration, i.e. faculty and staff. One of its first tasks was to review the Bulletin; they pulled a list of most pressing policies from that review that needed the most attention. The twelve policies under review led to a list of proposals that was sent to FC; now seven proposals are open for further faculty feedback on the main UCEP page. They're

also establishing processes for looking at educational policies (policy review guidelines), including a template for proposals.

- Butler asked for further explanation of the transcript notation policy proposal Sherman explained that if a student has been suspended or dismissed this policy gives ways to notate this with respect to the transcript, via an accompanying letter. Kruger noted that this was brought to UCEP from the Student Union because they wanted something to show on transcripts when there was some sort of interpersonal violence. The addition of a letter is a middle-ground. Other policies are revising current language. UCEP wants to regularly review policies. Sherman proceeded to discuss the proposed changes to the rest of the policy proposals:
 - Time limit for degree completion is largely the same.
 - Grade change policy is a little different. Question from a faculty member: about grade change—will students be grandfathered in? When will this change be made? Answer: The issue is more about the circumstances of a grade change in the bulletin and laying out a more precise timeframe in the bulleting. I think there will always be petitions and exceptions in policy work.
 - Any students who complete requirements in the summer to graduate will need a 2.0 to walk in Spring Commencement.
 - Student responsibility: there used to just be a line about how you can't hold your advisor responsible if you don't know all the rules; this change just makes that more obvious. The student representative (on UCEP) suggested putting it on all syllabi.
 - Course attempts: will be limited to 2, including withdrawals, anything beyond that needs petition.
 - Grade exclusion: in the student's first 2 terms at JCU, they can petition for grade forgiveness for bad grades in a major that didn't work out. This change differs from the old one, which specified 40 credits in, which is a problem for students who transfer in with credits.
- CAP discussion
 - Kilbride (Chair of CAP) introduced the Counseling department's proposal for a five-course sequence in substance abuse counseling, which is a sequence of courses that leads to a license. This proposal came to CAP last semester, it went up on Canvas a while ago and they held open hearings. CAP is satisfied with it and think it's ready for a faculty vote. Kilbride moved to send it to faculty to vote, Webinger seconded. (41 votes for, none against or abstaining).
 - UCEP proposals being looked at by CAP
 - Grading system streamline: retain F, WF, get rid of other F flavors; also, to change description of B to "good." The WF grade does require faculty to note when student stops attending class; this doesn't mean requiring taking attendance, but you can tell (i.e. student stops taking quizzes, exams).
 - Question from a faculty member: I have a class graded pass/fail, will that go away? Answer: that won't change.
 - Incomplete grade—it's sort of the wild west now: students have a month-long deadline to complete work. Cited chart of the many I-grades that turn into Fs. This proposal seeks to make this a student-initiated process, going either through the Boler Dean or CAS Advising to submit a petition. They'll need some sort of supporting documentation to do this. Rules: student must have a passing grade in the

class, will have done most of the course material, and withdrawal deadline should have passed. This is designed to get students to withdraw rather than continue to limp along. It's also designed to get faculty to give Fs when it's appropriate. Still a month deadline to get it done, and room to petition for more time. It is a more orderly process. CAP liked this proposal.

- Questions from faculty members: When do students need to request? by reading day? Do instructors have to grant the I? Is it up to your discretion? What does “most of work done” mean? Answer (Sherman): I think there's room for instructor flexibility to make that judgement.
 - Questions from faculty members: The student has to submit request before finals week—is that a “should or must”? Should the wording be that the amount of work/amount of grade needs to be completed? Response: I feel like that goes back to Sherman's observation about instructor discretion.
 - Question from a faculty member: Does this mean that I can't start this process? Response: The idea was that this is supposed to be student driven. Grenzi (FC and UCEP member) noted that part of the issue here is when student has a bunch of classes where they take a bunch of Is and then all the Is turn into Fs and their grades suddenly tank.
 - Question from a faculty member: How does this make its way to the instructor? Is it through OnBase? Answer (Sherman): yes, through OnBase. It's similar to the process to get excused absences. Further discussion: Todd Bruce noted that grade changes already take a lot of time and effort in the registrar's office; a number of instructors let grades go to F and it's only then that they go into change to grade. One faculty member noted that this doesn't change the fact that people will change grades after the fact. Another faculty member observed that the thing that always gets her is the 30-day period to finish the work, because the shift from fall to spring is really tough—that may be part of why so many things turn into Fs. Another faculty member pointed out that there's also an issue with students taking an I and enrolling in courses where there's a prereq.
 - Observation from a faculty member: UCEP has its own feedback system—but you can't see other people's comments with that, so I'd propose using Canvas to discuss this. Kilbride agreed to put up a Canvas discussion.
- Handbook proposals about to open for comment
 - Connell (Chair of Faculty Handbook committee) introduced committee members: Waner, Berg, Johansen, Taylor, Young. This semester they are proposing several amendments—they'll be put on canvas discussion and will have in-person hearings.
 - Most changes are updates to legal language. One is tricky because it's part of an AAUP quotation. The only change that isn't about language are the two changes to the charge of the Handbook committee itself.
 - There will be even more legal language amendments coming soon.
 - The meeting adjourned at 2:54pm.