

Committee on Academic Policy (CAP): Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 20, 2024
Meeting #16 AY2023-2024

Attendees: B. Calli (RBE, CAP chair), B. Antupit (student representative), J. Dudle (CEAE, EDC Representative), A. Gericke (Dean of Undergraduate Studies, ad interim), D. Heilman (CBC, UOAC Representative), F. Levey (MME), F. Schroeder (student representative), B. Servatius (MA, CITP representative), S. Wodin-Schwartz (MME)

Guest: Chrys Demetry (MME, Morgan Teaching and Learning Center)

Absent: S. Miles (Registrar),

1. Meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm.
2. Minutes from meeting #15 were approved.
3. Guest Chrys Demetry presented a report on "Previewing and Cleaning Comments in Student Course Reports." Since the fall of 2020, C. Demetry has offered this service to new faculty, and to some faculty of color beyond their first year. For those who opt-in, she obtains the student report data from the Director of Academic Programs in advance of their distribution to faculty, reads the comments, and redacts comments that are personal attacks, demeaning, offensive, and/or obviously biased. The "cleaned" report is provided to the instructor (faculty are automatically emailed the original report from Class Climate but are advised not to read it). The purpose is to address macro- and micro-aggressions and faculty mental health impacts from some student course reports. This service was offered 353 times and used 35 times, of which 10 needed some comments "cleaned". This service was used more by Black/African-American faculty than other groups. C. Demetry noted that this service was provided by herself, and not part of the Morgan Teaching and Learning Center initiatives. It was noted that this service does not address biases (based on gender, race, and other factors) that are known to affect student evaluations of teaching. Some ideas for decreasing personalized and aggressive comments were discussed, such as reminding students that only instructors see comments; modifying wording of open-ended questions to focus on learning; and providing alternative pathways for students to report complaints. C. Demetry noted that a large body of research shows many problems with student evaluations of teaching. Some universities such as the University of Oregon no longer have quantitative ratings of instructors. Instead, they request feedback from students on student learning, teaching practices, and student contributions to their own learning.
4. CAP plans to discuss the future of this service and/or broader changes in course evaluations in Fall 2024.
5. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Submitted by C-Term Secretary J. Dudle