

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

Minutes of Meeting #11, Academic Year 2015-2016

December 7, 2015

Present: J. Beck; J. Doyle (Chair); J. Hanlan; A. Heinricher; A. Romeo; J. Ross; J. Rulfs

Guest: Carly Alfaro (Secretary-Elect, SGA Committee on Student Life Issues)

Carly Alfaro joined CAP to discuss a matter of concern to SGA. SGA would like to see faculty utilize MyWPI for the submission of student papers and other written assignments. Initially this was presented as a "green paperless issue." Discussion brought out mixed motivations for wanting paperless submissions. As the various justifications for "going paperless" were discussed, various CAP members indicated that some of the rationales seemed stronger than others, while some seemed to have little support at all. CAP members provided advice on how the argument could be strengthened, while simultaneously pointing out that individual faculty members set the standards independently for submission of materials in their particular courses and projects. This led to a discussion of the new version of Blackboard and its capabilities for handling differing formats. Dean Heinricher discussed the possibility of piloting a study with volunteer faculty participants.

Discussion of the so-called "pay for credit" motion continued. It is CAP's intention to introduce a motion providing for an experimental 3 year suspension of the current policy that undergraduate students may not receive pay from an external agency sponsoring a project for which they are registered for academic credit. Members of CAP agreed that the notion of allowing students to receive pay while simultaneously receiving credit is far more complex than it may seem at first blush. Thus, it was decided to introduce a DISCUSSION ONLY of the proposed motion at the January, 2016, Faculty meeting with the intention of bringing the motion for a vote at the February, 2016, meeting.

Discussion continued on the matter of defining what constitutes an Independent Study Project. As a result of that discussion, it was agreed that Dean Heinricher will draft revised catalog wording for discussion at next week's CAP meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Hanlan