

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY

Minutes of Meeting #13, Academic Year 2015-2016

January 25, 2016

Present: L. Capogna; J. Doyle (Chair); M. Elmes; J. Hanlan; A. Heinricher; J. Rulfs

Student membership on CAP has changed due to the election of new officers by SGA. Dean Heinricher will ascertain the identity of our new student member(s).

The minutes for Meetings number 11 and 12 were approved.

We considered the discussion of CAP's proposed "pay for credit" motion at the January Faculty Meeting. It seemed that the discussion was positive and that the Faculty understood the reasons behind CAP's desire to suspend the "no pay for credit bearing activity" for undergraduates for a three year trial period. Thus, CAP will bring the motion for a vote at the February Faculty Meeting with only a minor change.

Discussion continued of Dean Heinricher's draft of language describing the definition of an ISP. Professor Doyle reported that he presented the draft proposal to the Department Heads. The draft included a provision that department heads, by their signatures, would need to approve ISPs registered by faculty in their departments. Some department Heads were opposed to this aspect of the proposal. Hence, CAP agreed that the provision for department head signature approval would be removed.

Discussion arose of the meaning and definition of what constitutes a Joint appointment, Affiliated faculty, and Associated faculty. After some confusion regarding these terms, it was agreed that Professor Doyle would forward this issue to COG and ask for clarification.

Discussion focused on the provision that an ISP "normally" would be between a single professor

and a single student. Examples were cited of instances in present and past practice where that “norm” is not, in fact, adhered to and it was agreed that these cases provide no problem. In the course of this discussion, Professor Rulfs asked Dean Heinricher if there is any policy provision that would allow for the cancellation of courses approved by the Faculty due to low enrollment (the example cited was under, say, 10 students). Dean Heinricher’s response was that there is no Faculty policy allowing for such a practice. Discussion then turned to the difficulty posed to the Registrar’s staff in knowing what faculty would be empowered to offer ISPs. It was suggested that Department Heads could be asked to maintain an annual listing of faculty in their departments who have such authority.

It was agreed that a benchmarking of ISP policies at institutions similar to WPI would be developed and included in the rationale. A motion was made and approved to proceed with the ISP Definition proposal based on the preceding discussion.

Lastly, as a matter of clarification, the term “ACE,” referenced in the minutes of meeting #12, stands for Academic and Corporate Engagement.

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Hanlan