

Community College of Philadelphia

The Path to Possibilities™

Meeting Minutes

Academic Support Standing Sub-committee

November 18, 2010 3:30 PM

W2-3E

Delegates and Alternates Present: Bavesh Bambhrolia, Joan Bush, Francesca DiRosa, Bettsy McCoubrey, Sandra Mejia, Tarik Ryant, and Allison Tasch

The meeting was convened by Bettsy McCoubrey. Bettsy informed the Committee that three faculty alternates will soon be assigned to this Committee .

Old Business

The Committee will postpone addressing revision of the “Progress Policy” until January 2011.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The President already vetoed the section of the 2009 revision that proposed having a “D” grade be counted as success toward progress as opposed to it remaining as passing which was not success. Thus, currently the grade of MP remains as a successful grade toward progress and the D is a passing grade not a successful grade. The supporting argument for changing D to a successful grade was due to the fact that MP was considered successful. Members of the IWC equated the two grades as similar and therefore, voted for the revision. However, given the President’s denial of the revision, this Committee is being called upon to revisit the MP grade within this context and propose that it too be considered a non-successful grade toward progress.

Drop/Add Policy

Last Spring the IWC voted not to accept the policy, but rather to pass it on to the President with the recommendation that he reject the Proposal for a Revision and identify a small working group to draft a revision of the policy. A question was asked regarding the meaning of “NR” on the transcript. NR indicates that an instructor did not give the student a grade. Unfortunately, the NR remains on the transcript and many times it is not possible to track down the instructor to rectify. Todd Jones is working to revise the appropriate Policy to resolve this issue.

Academic Integrity Policy

Osvil and Bettsy are working on the Academic Integrity policy. In addition, Sharon Thompson is also forming a Committee which will look at academic integrity within a more global framework and assess the degree to which this is a problem college-wide. Part of their work will also entail refining and defining “integrity” which, subsequently, will have direct relevance to the development of the revised policy on which the Academic Affairs Sub-Committee is working. Osvil and Bettsy are members of Sharon’s committee. Marge Niven and Faith Watson, former members of the Academic Support Committee and Alison Tasch have also had input into this endeavor.

Betsy handed out the Sub-Committee's DRAFT (10/28/2010) of the revised Academic Integrity Policy, including Opening Statement, Violations, Rights and Responsibilities. The format was discussed and the members agreed on the following structure: Rationale; Violations; General/Specific Definitions; Instructor and Student Responsibilities; Procedures for Reporting; Sanctions; and Appeals.

Bavesh stated that the purpose of the Policy is to outline the minimum standards set by the College in regard to academic integrity.

Tarik added that, similar to the attendance policy, faculty members can work within the framework of the policy and when appropriate set additional standards relative to the requirements of the course. These additional standards should be included in the course syllabi.

Members agreed that the first paragraphs of the policy need to serve as the authoritative guide to what follows. Thus, a coherent definition of academic integrity must precede rights and responsibilities and sanctions, etc. On page 2 under Violations, it was suggested that the following be added: #7, "violation of acceptable use policy and I.D. theft".

Bhavesh said the definitions of violations should be considered an "Authoritative Statement."

The members were unanimous in agreeing that Rights and Responsibilities are an important part of the policy and should remain within the document.

Fran stated that there should be a clear delineation between policy and procedure, since many times the two become intertwined and indistinguishable.

In response to Joan's question of "just what is academic integrity," Betsy suggested an idea from Susan Blum's "My Word! Plagiarism and College Culture" be included in the Opening Statement as follows: The spirit exemplified by our policy promoting academic integrity includes "fairness, trustworthiness, personal responsibility, respect for others, and ethical conduct. *(with proper citation)*

Betsy will work on the initial paragraphs, and she and Osil will work on Procedures and Sanctions.

Adjournment: A motion for adjournment was made, seconded, and passed unanimously at 5:00.