CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
Academic Standards Committee

MINUTES
1st Meeting – September 16, 2014
3:05pm-4:05pm Social Sciences Hall 216

Members present:
• Daniel D’Addio (Music)
• Mary D’Ambrosio (Journalism)
• Monique Durant (Accounting)
• Khaled, Hammad (Engineering)
• Frédéric Latour, Vice-Chair (Math)
• Jason Melnyk (Physical Education Human Performance)
• Ned Moore (Engineering)
• Rachel Schwell, Chair (Math)
• Mary Pat Bigley (SEPS)
• James Mulrooney (SEST)

• Patrick Tucker (Registrar)
• Nelson Castaneda (Math)
• Michael Wizevich (Physics and Earth Sciences)
• Cristina Higham (SOB)
• Tony Carberry (for Larry Hall, Admissions)
• Kate McGrath (History)
• Mary McCarthy (Accounting)
• John O’Connor (Sociology)

Guests Present
• Aimee Pozorski (English)

Call to order: The first meeting of the Academic Standards Committee of the 2014-2015 academic year was called to order by Dr. Schwell at 3:05 PM.

1. Approval of meeting minutes from the April 15, 2014 meeting. Motion (Schwell/Latour) to approve the minutes from the March 2014 meeting with the following change: correct date of meeting from 4/16/14 to 4/15/14.
   • Voted all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

2. Priority registration for veterans and active duty service members (A. Pozorski)
   • Schwell: We’re not the final decision makers on this policy?
     • Tucker: Academic Affairs will make decision, and consider our recommendation.
   • AP – Who actually implements this policy
     • PT – Registrar
   • Mulrooney – (to veteran present) “Thank you for your service” but we have many groups on campus who deserve extra help. Why not also give priority to single moms?
     • PT – about 6% of students already have priority as athletes, honors students, or students with disabilities.
   • AP – “Go back to get ahead” program emphasizes helping veterans
• Schwell – Dr. Roth (CLAS) sent me an email supporting this proposal, except for the text relating to “go back to get ahead”. In his experience very few people who are part of that program are veterans.

• Tucker – there are two classes of students here: active duty and veterans. Part of the rationale for some other prioritized groups is that they have significant additional commitments to the university and so need priority registration to accommodate those other responsibilities. Active duty might fall into that same category.

• Hammad – Do other CSU’s have such a policy?
  • Schwell – if they don’t we can lead and use it for marketing purposes.

• Carberry/Schwell – move to strike “Get Ahead” language from proposal
  • All in favor. Motion passes

• Mulrooney/ Schwell – Motion to voice support for this proposal
  • 16 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion passes

3. Discussion (unfinished from last year) of creation of official guidelines to distinguish between a B.A. and a B.S. (from M. Jackson representing Curriculum)
  • Schwell – We need to decide if we can/should tackle this.
  • Latour – Historically, BA degrees were preparatory degrees, BS degrees were focused professional degrees.
  • Mulrooney – Some science degrees became BS degrees under pressure from students, who thought studying biology should earn you a BS, not a BA.
  • McGrath – Is this task related to new programs only or to all programs? What’s the point?
    • Tucker – this should be for new programs only.
    • Schwell – This is also a matter of consistency.
    • Latour – current policy is to allow individual departments to choose. Not sure we want to change this.
  • Hammad – do employers care?
    • Mulrooney – No.
  • Hammad – What do other CSU’s do?
    • We don’t have to follow their lead exactly.
    • Latour / Tucker / MPB – Internet research reveals that other CSU’s have both BA and BS on same topic. Definition explicitly indicates that BS degree is more focused.
    • D’Addio – the Music Department has majors with concentrations, which would fall into the "B.S." description, but the department would not want to make those degrees be "B.S."s
    • Schwell – Not sure we’re ready to start this. I’m going to speak with Mark Jackson again.

4. Mulrooney: Students are able to take high level courses without mastering prerequisite topics because of overrides and low “pass” rules.
  • Mulrooney: When prerequisite of out of major, a “D” is sufficient. Students then do poorly in follow on classes. Some students are also able to register before completing pre-req, but then don’t get booted out of follow-on courses if they don’t pass.
  • Tucker – Department chairs get a list of students who fail pre-requisites ONLY if the students registered through the normal process. Students who get overrides are not caught by this system.
  • Mulrooney – I will work with PT on wording for a proposal.

5. Motion (Schwell/Moore) for adjournment. Voted all in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed. The first meeting of the Academic Standards Committee of the 2014-2015 academic year was adjourned at 4:05 PM.
Respectfully submitted,

Edward Moore, Secretary