CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
Academic Standards Committee

MINUTES
3rd Meeting – November 19, 2013
3:05pm-4:20pm Clock Tower Room, Student Center

Members present:
• Jaclyn Geller (English)
• Nelson Castañeda (Math)
• Mary B. Horan (Arts and Sciences)
• Frédéric Latour, Vice-Chair (Math)
• Kate McGrath (History)
• James Mulrooney (SOET)
• Mary Pat Bigley (SEPS)
• Jason Melnyk (Physical Education Human Performance)
• Ned Moore (Engineering)
• Michael Wizevich, (Physics and Earth Sciences)
• Patrick Tucker (Registrar)
• Rachel Schwell, Chair (Math)
• Sharon Braverman (School of Business)

Guests Present
• Larry Hall (Admissions)

Call to order: The second meeting of the Academic Standards Committee of the 2013-2014 academic year was called to order by Dr. Schwell at 3:05pm.

1. Approval of meeting minutes from the October 15, 2013 meeting. Motion (Horan/Braverman) to approve the minutes from the October 2013 meeting with the following change:
   • Add Larry Hall to attendee list
   • Voted all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business:
2. Discussion of suggestions from faculty regarding the President’s recruitment and retention plan
   a. Require mid-semester grades
      • Very difficult to require mid-term grades due to union contract
      • More professors are using the system voluntarily. 12% use this term vs 2% Fall 2012.
      • Schwell: Feedback in week 4 might be more useful, as students still have time to right the ship.
      • Moore: Can grades be changed after they are entered? (so grade could be entered @ week 4, then updated at week 10.)
         o Tucker: Yes
      • Some professors don’t have enough grades by week 10 to give useful feedback
Braverman: anything is better than nothing
Tucker: This is very different from high school, where students have nearly daily feedback. It is a tough adjustment.

b. Review incomplete policy to prevent bypassing academic standing policies
   • When students receive an INC, they avoid academic intervention. Many INC’s roll to F’s eventually.
   • Analysis from a previous year showed that about 50-60 students would have been targeted for intervention had their eventual grade of F been entered at the proper time.
   • Other schools have a formal contract signed by both student and professor to define responsibilities.
   • Tucker – of all suggestions, this seem to offer the biggest bang for your buck.
   • Latour: Grad school may care about this policy change, as they rely on INC’s for thesis work.
     o Tucker – Grad and Undergrad have separate policies

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c. Harmonize University, school, and department academic standards terminology
   • “Dismiss” in particular is being used in different ways by different people.
   • This may lead students dismissed from a program thinking that they’ve been dismissed from the university.
   • This is not a suggestion to alter the intent of school and department policies, but to only alter the language.
   • A template might be useful.

d. Revise pass/fail criteria to increase retention in class versus complete withdrawal
   • P/F avoids a W on the transcript
   • Would encourage students to stick with a class and get as much knowledge from it as possible.
   • An “F” would still negatively impact their GPA.

e. Revise criteria for Fresh Start Program to increase eligibility
   • Eliminate motivation to “quit sooner or do a little bit worse”.

f. Mulrooney: Students have trouble when they receive a “D” in a prerequisite course, and then move on to a more advanced course. We should make C- the minimum grade.
   • Enforce through course description, or general policy
   • Also, students don’t get financial aid when the repeat the course. An F would be better for them in that respect.
   • Moore: get rid of D’s entirely?
     • Schwell – How to we gather feedback on these ideas? Departments? Senators?
       o We’ll send to departments for comment via the school reps.

3. Reduction of credits required for graduation from 122 to 120 (Lovitt)
   • This is intended to reduce debt and increase the graduation rate
• 4 years = 8 semesters x 15 credits/semester = 120 credits
• This would not affect majors with exceptions (nursing, engineering etc.)
• Schwell: Need to ask departments for feedback

4. Redefine class standing
• Problem being solved: Transfer students are often given “senior” status despite have several years of coursework ahead of them for their chosen major. Some are surprised and discouraged to learn this.
• Current policy is in line with national norms and relates to financial aid and other programs.
• Tucker: Advising group is looking at how to better educate incoming transfer students. Suggestions include providing a thermometer style gage showing progress.
• Schwell: Return this item to original requester for clarification of problem.

5. Acceptance of Coursera MOOCS (Lovitt)
• American Council on Education has approved 5 Coursera MOOCS for university credit. Will we accept them for credit?
• Our policy is “Application of credit as it relates to the student’s CCSU degree requirements will be determined by the students’ major department…”
  o This implies that the math department should evaluate an English class when it is taken by math majors.
• Tucker: These courses should be referred to the relevant departments for evaluation.

6. Modification of course enrollment scheduling
• Problem: younger students are unable to register for classes when they are supposed to take them because the seats are taken by older students. Older students may be in a different program which takes the course later, or students who are repeating the course.
  o Westcott Solution: Modify enrollment calendar based on course level (1xx, 2xx etc.) and the students level.
• Mulrooney/Tucker: This is a legitimate problem, but an unworkable solution. The fundamental problem is that there aren’t enough seats.
• Tucker: We send instructions to the deans on how to set aside blocks of seats for their students.
• Bigley: It seems wrong that grad students get to register first, also.

Motion (Moore/Hall) for adjournment. Voted all in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed. The third meeting of the Academic Standards Committee of the 2013-2014 academic year was adjourned at 4:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Moore, Secretary