

Faculty Senate Academic Standards and Policies Committee
Minutes and Report
Meeting, October 23, 2017

Attending: Profs. Wu, Bai, Forsa, Speakman and Registrar O'Driscoll

1. Policies for Independent Studies. The committee reviewed the recommendations developed by last year's "task force" and concluded as follows:
 - A) Regarding the current petition form, the Registrar will remove the words "thesis preparation" from the first paragraph. The committee recommends that theses be considered separately from independent studies.
 - B) The Committee recommends that the deadline for submission of petition to the dean be "within seven days of the first week of classes," and that the dean reply within seven days of receipt of the petition. A motion will be offered to the Senate.
 - C) The committee recommends that the Administration affirm the following approach to independent studies: Independent studies are an important element of an RWU education. Consequently, the Administration should appropriate adequate funds to support this high impact practice of one-on-one student faculty collaboration. A motion will be offered to the Senate.
 - D) The committee is concerned that the designation "independent study" is often used for low-enrolled classes. If these classes are essential for the students' progress towards graduation, they should be listed as courses on the students' transcript. A motion will be offered to the Senate.
2. Policies regarding Room allocation. Registrar O'Driscoll informed the committee that he is working to implement a software program that will address room allocation, with the goal of meeting faculty preferences to the greatest extent possible. The Committee will continue to monitor this.
3. Policy regarding class size: The Registrar expressed his concerns about different policies for signing students in to classes above the cap. Each school has a different protocol for doing so. The committee will continue research into this issue with the goal of determining best practice.
4. Internship protocols: the committee will invite Director Steven Cantine to an upcoming meeting to review these processes.
5. Submission of theses to the Library. Prof. Wu reports that submission of theses varies widely by program and school. She will work with her colleagues to recommend changes in the process if any are required.

6. Lab fees: the committee continues to work on this. The Chair will discuss with VP Williams
7. Academic Standards Process: The committee requests clarification from the Senate about what questions have been raised about this process.
8. School of Continuing Studies: the committee will work on this in the coming month and report in December
9. Arts Management minor: Speakman met with Gabelli Dean McTiernan to discuss the status of this minor. While it had not appeared on the GSB website, it has since been restored. Twelve students are enrolled in the minor, making it difficult to offer the specialized courses required by the program. The fact that a Visual Arts major is required for those wishing to minor in AM, it has been difficult to recruit minors given that they reside (until recently) in SAHP. The possibility of relocating the AM minor to SHAE, where the visual artists now reside, is a possible solution to low enrollments. Should the Senate wish it, the Committee can continue further research into the issue. Alternately, the Executive Committee could open a discussion with the President, who has strongly supported this program in the past, and the Provost, about the best home for the program.

Submitted by June Speakman
October 31, 2017