NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

ADMISSIONS POLICIES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE
(APASC)

Minutes of Meeting #176
April 18, 2012

APPROVED

Present: D. Wade (BUS/MGMT); D. Zinger (EET/TECH); J. Boersma (Council of Adv. Deans); J. Wolfskill (LAS/MATH); D. Ballantine (UCC); A. Radasanu (LAS); L. Smart (HHS) for S. Arnett; E. Klonoski (VPA); P. Hartman (EDUC/TLRN)

Ex Officio: A. Birberick (VICE PROVOST); S. Eaton (EDUC SERV & PROG); K. McCarthy (ADMISSIONS);

Absent: S. Arnett (HHS); B. Hemphill (STUDENT AFFAIRS); D. Brouillette (LAS-student)

Visitors: L. Allison (REGISTRATION AND RECORDS); D. Smith (CATALOG/CURRICULUM COORDINATOR); S. Warber (REGISTRATION AND RECORDS; C. Cappell and S. Martin (Academic Affairs Committee, Faculty Senate)

OPENING: The meeting was called to order by D. Wade.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

D. Wade moved to adopt the agenda. L. Smart seconded. Motion carried.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Approval of Minutes (3/7/12)

D. Wade moved to approve the minutes for 3/7/12, seconded by J. Wolfskill. Motion carried.

III. Old Business

A. Plus/Minus grading (Charles Cappell and Stephen Martin)

D. Wade indicated that there were three different grading systems before APASC. System I which APASC did not previously approve which contains “A+” and “C-“; System II which keeps the “A+” and eliminates the “C-“, and System III which eliminates both the “A+” and the “C-“.
D. Wade moved to approve System II. L. Smart seconded. D. Wade indicated that System II eliminates the “C-”. He stated that this will have impact on prospective students and a timely graduation for students. There is a minimum satisfactory level of performance at “C” below which there will be no distinction. He stated regarding the “A+” that there are students striving for a 4.0 GPA and with the existence of the “A-” the 4.0 GPA can be jeopardized. Therefore, the “A+” would be desirable to those students.

E. Klonoski stated that he opposed the “A+”. He indicated that he felt it was giving a student extra credit so that they could possibly achieve the 4.0 GPA.

J. Wolfskill moved to amend the motion and make the “A+” grade a decorative grade only giving only 4.0 credit for it.

S. Warber said that if System I or II was chosen with the “A+” counting as 4.33 GPA and the student’s cumulative GPA not exceeding 4.0, there would have to be some customization made in PeopleSoft.

J. Wolfskill asked S. Warber except for the possibility of difficulty with the GPA cap issue, was there anything else that could be an implementation problem. She indicated that it would not be a problem and that this was being done for the Graduate School and the College of Law. S. Warber stated that the College of Law and the Graduate School do not have an “A+” grade.

C. Cappell indicated that he and the Faculty Senate strongly advocate System I which includes the “A+” as well as the “C-”. He stated the University of Iowa was using the “A+” with the 4.33 GPA and their registrar indicated that they had received no negative feedback from any external agencies evaluating transcripts that this was a problem.

C. Cappell also stated that the rationale for the “A+” was recognition that a student had gone above the distribution and done outstanding work. He stated that this was not grade inflation or extra credit. He went on to discuss the disagreement that the Academic Affairs Committee and Professor Wade have regarding the impact of the “C-” grade. He said that all the MAC and Big 10 schools have the “C-”. He indicated that there is no mandate that a professor would have to use all these grades. He stated that it would not be as hard for a student to offset a “C-” as it would if they received a “D”.

A. Birberick stated that for the teacher certification program there are now state mandated requirements of a “C” or better in many of the courses needed for certification. She stated that a “C-” would be considered the same as a “D” and the course would have to be repeated.

C. Cappell stated professors are aware of what it means to give a student a “D”. He also stated that he felt the faculty would be educated as to what a “C-” meant and that knowledge would be implemented into their decision.

L. Smart stated that faculty do not always know that there are teacher certification students in their class.

P. Hartman indicated that teacher certification students taking classes in a cohort would not be able to continue on with their cohort if they received a grade of “C-” even though that is a passing grade.
S. Martin indicated that the “C-” grade was less than 4% of all grades given at Western Illinois University. He stated that was a very small percentage.

D. Wade stated that would be a thousand a semester. That would require a large amount of repeats.

D. Wade made a friendly amendment to his motion to adopt System II pending confirmation of logistical suitability.

J. Boersma stated that the college deans would like to keep the current grading system.

J. Wolfskill asked when this would go into effect.

A. Birberick said that the UCC meets in September and would receive these approved minutes. Then this would be forwarded to the University Council. She stated that the earliest this could go into effect would the Fall 2013.

D. Wade withdrew his first motion to adopt System II and moved to adopt System III. D. Zinger seconded. He moved to call the question to approve System III. Eight voted yes and one voted no. Motion carried.

B. COE Certificate of UG Study MS Literacy Catalog Change Removal of GPA

D. Wade moved to approve the College of Education Certificate of UG Study Middle School Literacy catalog change with the removal of the 3.0 GPA requirement. D. Ballantine seconded. Motion carried.

C. COB additional information – limited admission/retention

D. Wade moved to approve the limited admission/retention requirements from the College of Business. J. Wolfskill seconded. Motion carried.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Curricular Items referred by CUC

- COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES #9, February 15, 2012
  Department of English

D. Wade stated that currently a minimum grade of “B” in ENGL 300C is required as a retention requirement and it is just being moved to an admission requirement. ENGL 479 and ENGL 482 are now required for retention with a grade of “B” or better.

D. Wade moved to approve the catalog changes for English Studies with Teacher Certification. L. Smart seconded. Motion carried.

- COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES #10, March 21, 2012
  Department of Mathematical Sciences
D. Wade moved to approve the course revision adding MATH 109 with a grade of C or better as one of the possible prerequisites for MATH 110. J. Wolfskill seconded. Motion carried.

B. Renewal of Limited Admissions – FCNS – B.S. in Family & Child Studies
C. Renewal of Limited Retention – FCNS – B.S. in Family & Child Studies
D. Renewal of Limited Retention – FCNS – B.S. in Nutrition, Dietetics and Hospitality Administration

D. Wade moved to approve the Renewal of Limited Admissions and Limited Retention from FCNS as a unit. J. Wolfskill seconded. Motion carried.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes submitted by Lisa Allison.