NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

ADMISSIONS POLICIES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE
(APASC)

Minutes of Meeting #181
February 6, 2013

APPROVED

Present:  E. Mogren (LAS/HIST); S. Marsh (BUS/MGMT); D. Zinger (EET/TECH); M. Myles (Council of Adv. Deans); J. Wolfskill (LAS/MATH); A. Keddie (UCC); J. Umoren for S. Arnett (HHS); S. Johnston-Rodriguez (EDU/SEED)

Ex Officio:  A. Birberick (VICE PROVOST); S. Eaton (EDUC SERV & PROG); A. Hlubek (TRANSFER CENTER)

Student:  Susan Richard (STUDENT ASSOCIATION)

Absent:  K. Wesener Michael (STUDENT AFFAIRS & ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT) K. Buster-Williams (ADMISSIONS);

Visitors:  L. Allison (REGISTRATION AND RECORDS); D. Smith (CATALOG/ CURRICULUM COORDINATOR); J. Montag (REGISTRATION AND RECORDS); C. Fox (COLLEGE OF EDUCATION); M. Pritchard (COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES); G. Barker (TESTING SERVICES); J. Spears (OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT); K. Thurmaier (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION)

OPENING:  The meeting was called to order by E. Mogren

I.  ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

S. Marsh moved to approve the agenda.  E. Mogren asked to amend the agenda by having the two groups give their presentations.  M. Myles seconded.  Motion carried as amended.

Kurt Thurmaier gave his presentation regarding the revised proposal for a certificate in Public Section Leadership.  He stated that the program is a way to entice mid-career professionals that do not have a four year undergraduate degree, but are being identified by managers and encouraged to complete a degree so that they can move to upper level management positions.  Most of these students would take the classes at Oakton or Harper Community Colleges because that is where the B.S. in Applied Management is taught.

The reason this is being presented again to APASC is the GPA requirement of 3.0 in all certificate courses.  K. Thurmaier indicated that he feels that a “C” is not leadership quality and that the standard should be set higher.  He said that he had convened with city
managers and they strongly supported a grade of “B” as a benchmark for this certificate. They felt it was an indicator of aptitude for thinking critically and of the student’s seriousness about academic success. He also mentioned that most of these students were able to get tuition reimbursements and most cities did not give full refunds for grades of “C”.

Julia Spears (Director, Office of Student Engagement) and Greg Barker (Director of Testing Services) presented the results from the National Survey of Student Engagement which NIU participates in every three years. Julia stated that this is the largest comprehensive assessment in the country. This survey is given to first year students and seniors. Greg Barker clarified that first year are students with less than 30 hours and seniors are those with 90 or more hours. Greg Barker said that the student data was provided to NSSE in late October. NSSE does a random selection of the students provided to them and they are the one that sends out emails. Everything comes from the NSSE research center. This is a web based survey. Greg Barker indicated that our sample size was about the same as 2009 and our scores were about the same.

For more information contact the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning at www.oseel.niu.edu.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Approval of November 28, 2012 minutes

S. Marsh moved to approve the minutes for 11/28/12, seconded by M. Myles. Motion carried.

III. Old Business

A. Early Childhood Studies limited admission GPA

Connie Fox stated that the issue APASC had was that Early Childhood was lowering the standard. She said that it was a change in the standards. She stated that the major academic hurdle was the Test of Academic Performance for getting into Teacher Education. As a campus, NIU has fewer than 29% of first time test takers that are successful. The numbers of students going into teaching is drastically dropping. She indicated that there are 45 students in the Early Childhood program and four of them did not have the required 2.75 GPA to be admitted. Those four students were conditionally admitted and they all have a 3.0 GPA or above. Presently, students are having to petition to get into the program and the College of Education and Health and Human Sciences just want to formalize the requirement of 2.5 GPA.

Mary Pritchard indicated that the limited admission is no longer an issue and it was more to do with resources than standards. She said that both COE and HHS want to provide access to more students. The standards that have been set by University Teacher Certification and by the accrediting agency are being met. She stated that changing the GPA is giving more students the opportunity to succeed.
A. Birberick reiterated that the 2.5 GPA requirement falls in line with the state requirements. C. Fox said that presently with the 2.75 GPA that is required, the average student in their first semester has a 3.35 GPA and graduates with a 3.55 GPA.

E. Mogren said that by definition this is a lowering of standards changing the present 2.75 GPA to a 2.5 GPA.

C. Fox said that the standard is that the student is able to do the job when they graduate. She stated that the students do come out of the program meeting the standards and are exceptional teachers when they get into the field. She asked why they would limit entrance to the program unnecessarily. The undergraduate catalog indicated that they limit enrollment in the program, but they don’t practice it. Both C. Fox and M. Pritchard indicated that this is no longer a resource issue.

S. Marsh stated that the reason we have an entrance standard is because students that do not meet that standard are not likely to reach the end results. She stated that C. Fox’s data suggests that there is not enough correlation to justify having the standard which is why COE and HHS are making the exceptions. S. Marsh stated that this was the information that she wanted to see.

J. Wolfskill reiterated that the current entrance standard is 2.75 GPA and that the vast majority of students achieve that. He stated that the small number of students that do not meet the 2.75 GPA can petition for exception as students can do with any policy. On a case by case basis these petitions are reviewed, and students are allowed to continue one semester. To graduate a 2.5 GPA must be met and both COE and HHS are asking that the entrance to the program be the same requirement. He said that he feels this is a convincing argument.

J. Wolfskill moved to approve the change of GPA from 2.75 to 2.5 in both the College of Education and Health and Human Sciences areas for the Interdisciplinary Major in Early Childhood Studies. M. Myles seconded. Motion carried.

B. FCNS 431 add prerequisite

M. Myles moved to accept version #1 of the course revision for FCNS 431 Internship as seen below. D. Zinger seconded. Motion was carried.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES #3, September 21, 2012

School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences

APASC Course Revision Page 165, 2012-13 Undergraduate Catalog

431. INTERNSHIP (1-15).
A. Child Development.
B. Family Social Services.
C. Hospitality Administration.
D. Family and Consumer Sciences Education.
E. Nutrition and Dietetics. Supervised participation in professional settings. Students will be assigned to experiences appropriate to their professional interest. May be repeated to a maximum of 15 semester hours. When taken in conjunction with FCNS 356, Cooperative Education II, total enrolled credit hours in both courses may not exceed 15 hours. S/U grading basis may be used. May be repeated to a maximum of 15 semester hours. See special requirements as may apply to internships according to major. PRQ: Consent of school. PRQ for 431C: FCNS 302 with a grade of C or better, FCNS 316 with a grade of C or better, and FCNS 498 with a grade of C or better.

RATIONALE:
Adding “Social” to the title of 256B, 356B and 431B corrects the course name in alignment with the emphasis title. Remove redundant sentence. A grade of C or better in these courses indicates adequate mastery of content prior to taking 431 C.

D. Smith indicated that this language can be entered into the Fall 2013 catalog since the college met the deadline.

C. PSPA Certificate
J. Wolfskill felt that Kurt Thurmaier gave a good argument of why they have set the standard of the 3.0 GPA.

Curriculum Proposal: Certificate in Public Sector Leadership
Proposed by Division of Public Administration

College of Liberal Arts and Science Page 302, 2012-13 Undergraduate Catalog

Department of Political Science

Division of Public Administration (PSPA)

Certificate in Public Sector Leadership (12)
The certificate prepares students to take effective leadership roles within public service organizations and situations. Leadership skill and knowledge is are fundamental for individuals contemplating or currently pursuing career positions with public service organizations such as government units and nonprofit organizations. Knowing how to frame a vision, how to think strategically, how to solve problems, how to motivate employees, and how to adapt an organization to complex environmental change is are all part of being a public service leader.

The certificate is open to all NIU undergraduates. Students must maintain good academic standing in the university, achieve a minimum grade of C in each certificate course, achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 in all certificate courses, and complete all certificate course work within six calendar years. All course requirements for the
certificate must be completed at NIU. Some of the courses may, with the approval of the major department, be applied toward an undergraduate major. The Division of Public Administration reserves the right to limit enrollment in any of the certificate courses.

**Requirements**
PSPA 201 (3) Public Service Leadership
PSPA 331x (3) Introduction to Public Administration

and two of the following
PSPA 302X (3) Government in Metropolitan Areas
PSPA 303X (3) State and Local Government
PSPA 330X (3) Bureaucracy and the Public Policy Process
PSPA 327x (3) Electronic Governance
PSPA 410 (1) Supervision in the Public Sector
PSPA 411 (3) The Ethical Public Administrator
PSPA 412 (3) Public Budgeting
PSPA 413 (1) Community Engagement in Public Safety Agencies
PSPA 395 (3) Contemporary Topics in Public Service (can repeat for 6 credit max)

J. Wolfskill moved to approve the catalog language for the PSPA certificate which included a cumulative GPA of 3.0. M. Myles seconded. Motion carried.

IV. New Business

A. Curricular Items referred by CUC: ARTE 200

**M. Myles moved to approve. D. Zinger seconded.** J. Wolfskill said that he thought this could be set up as a milestone. M. Myles said that by state law students have to pass the “Test for Academic Proficiency” before they can take certain classes. E. Mogren asked what was equivalent to the Test for Academic Proficiency”. M. Myles said that the state accepts an ACT composite score of 22 plus writing. It was decided that the prerequisite wording needed to be revised to read as follows:

PRQ: ART 100, ART 103, and successful completion of the Test for Academic Proficiency or equivalent.

**S. Marsh moved to approve the revised prerequisite wording if the college agrees. M. Myles seconded. Motion carried.**

B. Plus/Minus catalog language

**D. Zinger moved to approve the Plus/Minus Grading catalog changes with a friendly amendment suggested by J. Wolfskill that “C+” be inserted in all the places it was accidentally omitted. M. Myles seconded. Motion carried.**
A. Birberick indicated that the two documents provided to APASC were the catalog changes which have the changes in yellow and the “FAQ”s for plus/minus grading that is for advertising and informational purposes.

J. Montag stated this information will be posted on Registration and Records’ website.

A. Birberick stated that written descriptions are not provided for A-, B+, B- and C+ just the points that are earned. The written description stays the same for each letter grade.

J. Montag reported that he would be updating the transcript legend on the back of the official transcript paper to grade points rather than quality points to meet with the new university grading system.

There will be no change in how the undergraduate Admissions Office calculates the GPA for any admission, not just transfer admission.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes submitted by Lisa Allison.