NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

ADMISSIONS POLICIES AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE
(APASC)

Minutes of Meeting #179
October 31, 2012

APPROVED

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

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

Student:

Absent: K. Wesener Michael (STUDENT AFFAIRS & ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT)

Visitors: L. Allison (REGISTRATION AND RECORDS); D. Smith (CATALOG/CURRICULUM COORDINATOR); J. Montag (REGISTRATION AND RECORDS)

OPENING: The meeting was called to order by A. Birberick.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Readmission for Former NIU Students under Old Business will be moved to next APASC meeting.

S. Marsh moved to adopt the agenda as amended. M. Myles seconded. Motion carried.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Introductions

B. Approval of September 5, 2012 minutes

D. Zinger moved to approve the amended minutes for 9/5/12, seconded by M. Myles. Motion carried.

III. Old Business

A. College of Education – Other Catalog Change – Emphasis 2 Vision GPA

J. Wolfskill moved to approve and D. Zinger seconded.
S. Marsh asked for clarification regarding the minimum requirement of 2.5 GPA to be admitted to the teacher certification program in Vision Impairments. M. Myles stated that it is a reduction of the 3.0 GPA original requirement.

J. Wolfskill asked if the department’s intent was for the whole program to drop to the 2.50 GPA. M. Myles said that was true, but had not yet been approved.

S. Marsh indicated that this is not consistent with what is currently in the catalog and did not see how APASC could approve it.

E. Mogren asked if the 2.5 GPA needs to be cumulative GPA or within the major. M. Myles stated that she believed they were just trying to clarify that each emphasis has this 2.5 GPA.

E. Mogren question why are we making this an easier major or lowering our standards to enable students to stay in a major or get into this major.

A. Birberick said that a better rationale for this change lowering the GPA was needed.

**J. Wolfskill moved to remove his previous motion and moved to refer this back to the College of Education. D. Zinger seconded. Motion carried.**

IV. New Business

A. Curricular Items referred from CUC

- **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS #2, October 2, 2012**

  J. Wolfskill stated that this revision is enforcing a requirement of a C or better a little earlier.

  **S. Marsh moved to approve the grade of C or better in the prerequisite for BUSI 223. J. Wolfskill seconded. Motion carried.**

- **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION #2, September 18, 2012**

  **J. Wolfskill moved to approve. D. Zinger seconded.**

  J. Wolfskill stated that it seemed that the 2.5 GPA requirement to be admitted to the Early Childhood Studies program seems to have been left out of the language.

  M. Myles stated the difference was the limited admission section of the catalog and the major section of the catalog. The way the text has always read is that the limited admissions GPA is in the limited admission’s section of the catalog and the retention information is in the major section.
E. Mogren restated the reason for changing the 2.5 entrance and maintenance GPA is consistent with NCATE requirements and other teacher education programs in the state and will allow NIU to remain competitive with other state and national programs. He questioned how lowering admissions’ standards and retention standards makes NIU more competitive.

M. Myles stated that this will give NIU the ability to remain competitive and to recruit students into our programs.

A. Birberick stated that she believes they are trying to standardize this with the state requirements.

M. Myles said a 2.5 versus a 2.75 GPA does not make an excellent teacher. It is the quality of work the student provides in the classroom. This particular program uses an inclusive approach in evaluating for admissions which includes an essay, experience documentation and recommendations. These students go through a process of evaluation and elimination. Not all students that apply get into this program. She stated that by lowering the GPA to a 2.5 it gives the college the opportunity to look at a wider breadth of students and gives them a more diverse pool to select from.

E. Mogren question why even have a GPA for the program.

M. Myles stated that all teacher certification programs require a minimum 2.5 GPA requirement.

E. Mogren then questioned whether we wanted to reduce our standards to the minimum that the state requires or do we want to continue to have at least a demonstrable on paper policy of accepting students that have better grades and perform better academically in their classes. We are being asked to evaluate or to establish at least part of this standard. He questioned whether we should lower the standard or keep it where it is.

A. Birberick stated that one of the things APASC is concerned with is excluding students from programs by having limited admissions. She said that the College of Education is going in the opposite direction by opening it up, yet being respectful of the state’s mandate. She questioned to what degree should APASC interfere or intervene in a program’s decision.

E. Mogren stated that APASC is not making a decision to exclude people. APASC is being asked to lower a standard. He questioned the role of APASC. He stated that he felt APASC had every right to be able to question and object to changes that would lower the standards whether or not a department or unit decides it is in their best interest. He stated that this may not be a final decision that is up to APASC, but feels APASC has an obligation to provide an opinion on it.

J. Wolfskill asked if enrollment had been dropping in this program.
E. Mogren asked if there was any evidence that the drop in enrollment had to do with the 2.75 standard.

M. Myles stated things that are impacting enrollment in the College of Education. She said that the state of affairs with the Illinois State Board of Education with so much change and upheaval at the state level, people are wary to go into teaching. Another huge issue is the TAP exam which used to be the basic skills test. Students are struggling to pass this exam.

M. Myles stated that many things are driving students away from teaching. The College of Education is trying to get more students into the major, get them interested, maintain them and build their skills so that they keep moving along in the program. By adjusting the GPA a little, they can bring more interest into the program.

M. Myles stated this policy is technically moving forward, but exceptions to the rule are made on a case by case basis. This policy would impact new students, but continuing or re-entering students could also benefit from this by changing their catalog year or appealing to the department.

E. Mogren asked if there was any evidence that lowering the GPA would increase the enrollment in the program. M. Myles was not sure. He stated that he is not convinced that lowering the GPA will increase enrollment.

A. Birberick stated that this in an interdisciplinary major, so it is not just for the College of Education but also Health and Human Sciences.

A. Byrd looked up GPA for Illinois State in the same program and it has a requirement of 2.5 GPA. She stated that Illinois State is known for their teaching programs and one of our major competitors.

**J. Wolfskill withdrew his previous motion and moved to table the GPA change from 2.75 to 2.5 in both sets of minutes for the Early Childhood Studies Interdisciplinary Major.** He asked that representatives from both the College of Education and Health and Human Sciences present the problem and how lowering the GPA will solve that problem. M. Shokrani seconded. Motion carried.

- COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY #4, October 15, 2012
  
  D. Zinger moved to approve the catalog language for the new course TECH 445 with the prerequisite in Math 155 with a grade of C or better. M. Myles seconded. Motion carried.

- COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES #3, September 21, 2012
  
  J. Wolfskill moved to approve. M. Myles seconded and it was opened for discussion.
J. Wolfskill questioned whether there can be separate prerequisites for the different topics under FCNS 431 Internship.

A. Byrd said that this cannot be done without a lot of maintenance.

J. Wolfskill said that he would recommend that they just have as the prerequisite “consent of school” and they could handle the individual prerequisites internally.

**J. Wolfskill withdrew his previous motion and moved to refer the prerequisite for FCNS 431 Internship back to the college of FCNS. S. Marsh seconded. Motion carried.**

- **COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES #2, September 19, 2012**

  S. Marsh moved to approve this with a revision inserting “grade of” before the C. M. Myles seconded. It was opened for discussion.

  J. Wolfskill said what they need to argue is not that C is an acceptable level of competence, but that a D is not.

  A. Birberick said that the rationale is lacking on why a grade of C or better is required.

  **S. Marsh withdrew her previous motion and moved to refer this back to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to ask for a more explicit rationale. M. Myles seconded. Motion carried.**

- **COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES #4, October 3, 2012**

  S. Marsh moved to approve the biochemistry language. M. Myles seconded. Discussion was opened.

  J. Wolfskill asked if a student can get certification without a degree. He suggested that dropping the phrase “required for the degree” and have it read “…earn a grade of C or better in all coursework required for certification”.

  M. Myles said that the rationale only refers to the certification piece.

  A. Birberick said that the state does not mandate a C or better in all coursework.

  **S. Marsh withdrew her motion. She moved that this be sent back with the recommendation that if they want a C or better in all coursework that needs to be put back into the degree and to clarify what they want out of the certification aspect. M. Myles seconded. Motion carried.**

**III. Old Business**

B. Transfer Credit from Community Colleges

  **D. Zinger moved to approve. S. Marsh seconded. Opened for discussion.**
A. Birberick stated that the language being looked at is transfer credits from community colleges and not from four year institutions. J. Wolfskill stated that current policy is a student can transfer in more than 66 hours from a community college, but the student would need to complete 54 additional hours from NIU or another four year college.

M. Myles stated that the advising deans are comfortable with the language as is and are not supportive of this change. She stated that advisors would rather see all courses that transferred in and apply them accordingly to the student’s degree.

J. Montag stated that PeopleSoft can handle whatever is decided. The concept is that we want to make life simple for the student. This way a student can change their major and all their transfer coursework is there.

J. Montag stated that no matter how many credit hours are transferred in by a student only 66 can be used toward a degree from community colleges and the 54 hour requirement is being met. There have been no deviations. We have a system in place that works. Students know the difference between an unofficial and official transcript and they have knowledge of how all their classes transferred up front.

A. Byrd stated not only is it a convenience for students, but if we were to go back this would hinder a student’s ability to do a “What if?” What if I need to change from this major to another major? All of the student’s transfer credit would not be accessible to them to run those “What ifs” because the other hours would be isolated.

M. Myles stated that this also could impact prerequisites for enrollment.

A vote was taken to NOT accept this new catalog language but leave it as is. It passed unanimously.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes submitted by Lisa Allison.