

Admissions, Standards and Honors (ASH) Committee Meeting

February 29, 2012

Human Ecology Room 115

Members present: Sarah Bartoleme, Patti Beste, Lake Douglas, Robert Doolos, Andrea Houston (chair), Gerry Knapp, Lupe Lamadrid, Ioan Negulescu, Gil Reeve, Maud Walsh. Fakhir Al-Bagdadi, Graham Bodie and Nicole Dahmen sent proxies to Houston.

Guests present: Kenneth Miles, Executive Director of the Cox Communications Academic Center for Student-Athletes, and Derek Cowherd, Director of Academic Affairs, Cox Communications Academic Center for Student-Athletes

Houston called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm. The minutes from the meeting on February 16, 2012, were approved with an amendment to add that Houston served as proxy for Maud Walsh.

Grade Exclusion policy (formerly called the repeat policy)

Houston summarized feedback from colleges on the proposed grade exclusion policy proposed in Faculty Senate Resolution 11-23, which was introduced the request of Student Government. She said that senior colleges are concerned that we're sending mixed message to students (getting more stringent on some point, less on others) and that colleges with high-demand courses want to be able to exclude students. Doolos distributed a document with his suggestion for revised wording and issues to be resolved if the policy is adopted. Houston said that senior colleges wanted request to be last day to add or at least last day to resign. Colleges that deal with many freshmen and sophomores were more inclined to be supportive of revised policy. Knapp asked whether NOT supporting is one option and Reeve replied that we can only provide guidance to Faculty Senate. Reeve says that it needs to be clear that students have a limited number of repeats and once they're used they cannot be changed if student drops the class, for instance. Doolos says that allowing students to do this has been shown to improve retention. Reeve suggested that this be limited to 1000 and 2000 level classes. Lamadrid said that her office looked at regional and national peers. She would prefer seeing the plan fleshed out before sending to Faculty Senate. Lamadrid reported that she had checked with BOR on their policy, and that there is none. Karen Denby of the Board of Regents said that repeat/delete policy should not penalize student for second attempt (not average two course attempts). Lamadrid stated that she would prefer to treat transfer credit as it is done now because some community colleges have very liberal policies about repeated classes. Miles expressed concern about having the second grade count and also pointed out that eligibility could be affected by grade exclusions, depending on when recalculation is done. Reeve noted that we have until Fall 2013 for implementation. A sub-committee was set up to examine the issue and make recommendations to the Committee. Members of the subcommittee are Lupe Lamadrid, Gerry Knapp, Robert Doolos. Robert objected to changing name to replace "exclusion." The committee voted to recommend that the phrasing "below a C" be included.

Discussion about +/- grades task force

Houston reported that the Faculty Senate taskforce for making recommendations on a proposed change to +/- grading does not include anyone from ASH Committee. Miles expressed concern about the retention implications of the policy, noting that +/- might mean that some grades would drop. Negalescu commented that the number translation from European system works as it is, so changing to +/- would only complicate translations. Bartoleme said that she thinks that the current system keeps students from doing their best work because there is no incentive to get more than a minimum requirement for an "A", for example. The Committee agreed that ASH should participate in the grade discussion. Reeve suggested we send a general comment, but not a stand on the resolution yet, since taskforce hasn't completed its work. Houston will send an email to Faculty Senate Executive Committee saying that ASH has concerns and would like representation on the taskforce.

Update on dual enrollment policy

Houston will take responsibility for reviewing and making recommendations on the policy.

Discussion on intersession

Houston said that general feedback on the value of intersession has been positive. Students use to catch up or to get ahead, and to maintain manageable loads for regular semesters. Walsh pointed out that intersession classes help students comply with CATS (Comprehensive Academic Tracking System) requirements. Knapp added that students who are doing internships need intersessions to compete their degree requirements.

International transfer credit issue

Houston reminded the Committee that we may be asked to tackle the international transfer credit issue.

ASH website

Doolos showed the Committee the newly-developed ASH website and acknowledged the assistance of Clay Benton and Anna Castrillo in getting it set up. The website can be found at [http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/registrar.nsf/\\$Content/Admissions,+Standards+and+Honors+Committee?OpenDocument](http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/registrar.nsf/$Content/Admissions,+Standards+and+Honors+Committee?OpenDocument) or go to LSU A-Z under Admissions, Standards, and Honors.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

[Minutes submitted by Maud Walsh].