

Academic Standards Council
Official Minutes for Friday, 15 April 2022, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Curt Whitaker, Ruiling Guo, Tim Leishman, Joann Trimmer, Susan Belliston, Lyle Castle, Tiffany Elsberry, Jack Rose

Absent But Excused: Anushka Burde

Recording Secretary: Ann Medinger

1) ASC Format and Offices

We will need to discuss whether ASC should meet in person or via Zoom in the fall; we will also need to choose a chair and vice chair for the 2022-2023 school year. (action item; vote needed)

- A) Curt Whitaker will be continuing on as the representative for CAL
- B) Whitaker recommended meeting in person for at least the first meeting
 - 1) Whitaker suggested going meeting-by-meeting
 - 2) Meeting room is reserved in AA102
- C) Whitaker said he is happy to serve as Chair for the 2022-2023 academic year

ACTION- Belliston motioned to nominate Whitaker as chair
Guo seconded
Motion carried unanimously

ACTION- Belliston moved to nominate herself as Vice Chair
Guo seconded
Motion carried unanimously

2) Repeating Courses and Regression

Please review suggested revision to ISU policy on repeating courses, drafted by Joann Trimmer. The language that has been removed has to do with what is called “regression,” that is, enrollment in a course that prepares a student to take a more advanced course that the student has already passed. The argument against this policy is that prohibition of regression restricts students unnecessarily and affords no benefit to ISU. (action item; vote needed)

- A) The council discussed the removal of the language regarding regression and a new proposed paragraph has been drafted: “A course in which an F grade is earned must be repeated if that course is required for graduation. Courses in which a D grade is earned must be repeated if the major department so requires. If a course is repeated at ISU, the latest grade is used in computing grade point average unless the description includes language indicating the maximum number of credits for which the course may be repeated. Students who wish an exception to this policy may contact the Dean’s Office

of their college to submit an undergraduate student petition to the Office of Academic Affairs.”

B) Belliston commented that in the nursing program, they have had issues with students attempting to increase their GPA by taking regressive courses; Whitaker agreed that this problem may require attention, but it may be best to address it on a departmental level rather than a university-wide one.

ACTION- Leishman moved to accept the language proposed by Joann Trimmer

Rose seconded

Motion carried with 4 yes's, 1 abstention and 0 no's

3) Data from Institutional Research on Certificates

Please review data supplied by Vince Miller at Institutional Research regarding the number of certificates awarded by department and college at ISU during the last twelve years. As we consider ISU policy concerning certificates, ASC members may find the data helpful in representing their constituents who may be most affected by any changes. (discussion item)

A) Whitaker presented the excel sheet that accompanies this discussion and lead the council in the discussion regarding this issue

B) The eventual idea is to come up with policy and guidelines for earning certificates at ISU

C) Belliston gave positive feedback on earning certificates

1) These could possibly be a good plan B for those who can't earn their minor

D) Guo gave positive feedback as well

2) Said some certificates may not be active

4) Turnitin Plagiarism Service

Guest: Dr. Nancy Legge (Professor, Department of Communication, Media, and Persuasion) will address ASC regarding Turnitin's Draft Coach and Authorship Service; she and Curt Whitaker are requesting ASC's endorsement of an Academic Integrity Committee at ISU. Please review email from Lyle Castle, as well as letters written by Dr. Legge and Curt Whitaker to ISU's Deans' Council and Faculty Senate. (discussion item)

A) Legge has been the chair of Academic Dishonesty Board for 7 years and oversees 35 sections of communications 1101

B) Legge presented on the problem of Academic violations by students nationwide:

1) 16% admitted to contract cheating

2) 67% say they may not act on suspicions of contract cheating because they don't have enough evidence to prove it

3) 10% decline in number of university applications an institution receives following a scandal

C) ISU's management of academic integrity violations is fragmented and reactive

D) Legge asked ASC to consider endorsing an Academic Integrity Committee at ISU

E) Council discussed Legge's proposal

F) The current Academic Integrity Committee only meets under circumstances or allegations of Academic Misconduct for hearings

- 1) Their meetings are very intermittent
- 2) Legge is proposing that the new committee have a definitive list of members who meet regularly

The Deans' Council has asked ASC for specific guidance on whether Draft Coach should remain on or be turned off. (action item; vote needed)

- A) Legge wants to talk about two aspects- How it came to be and its usefulness
 - 1) It was adopted by people who are not faculty
 - b) Faculty were not involved in the conversation when this system was adopted
 - a) When issues have been brought up with it, decision-makers have been unable to reverse former decisions
 - 2) Draft coach is causing students to lose opportunities for learning moments
 - a) There are students who use their friend's outlines, put it through draft coach, and then the student changes a few things to make it their own
 - i) Draft coach teaches students how to paraphrase their friend's ideas
 - 3) Legge is asking ASC to vote to turn off "Turn it In"
 - 4) Dean's Council has asked ASC to make the decision on this issue
 - 5) Want to turn it off until research can be done to see how other schools view the program, the idea of turning off the plagiarism checker, and statistics on any benefits it may have
- B) Whitaker put together the following language:

"Academic Standards Council agrees with the Deans' Council that Turnitin's Draft Coach should remain available to students and faculty for the duration of spring semester 2022. When the semester ends, on May 11, Draft Coach should be turned off and remain so during summer and fall semesters of 2022. During this time the Academic Dishonesty Board should review the service and determine by the end of fall semester, December 20, whether to turn Draft Coach back on."

ACTION- Rose moved to accept the draft put together by Whitaker as seen above

Leishman seconded

Motion passed unanimously

The Deans' Council has also asked ASC to consider decision-making at ISU regarding technology that has a direct impact on academics. (discussion item)

- A) Is council comfortable supporting the new Academic Integrity Committee that will meet regularly

ACTION- Belliston motioned to send an endorsement to Faculty Senate

Guo seconded

Motion passed unanimously

B) Council discussed whether they want to approve teaching technology decisions going through the faculty in the future

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:58 pm