

Academic Standards Council

Official Minutes for Friday, 16 December 2022, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Tim Leishman, Curt Whitaker, Joann Trimmer, Tiffany Mitchell, Hala Abou Arraj, John Fitzpatrick, Jen Adams, Susan Belliston, Lyle Castle, Carrie Bottenberg

Absent but Excused: Ruiling Guo, Aaron Todd

Recording Administrator: Ann Medinger

1) English Proficiency Test Exemptions

We reviewed the proposal in [Box](#) submitted by Shawn Bascom, Associate Director of Admissions and International Services. The proposal is to waive the requirement to complete an English proficiency test for students who come to the U.S. from one of the countries on the given list. (action item)

- The reason for the proposal is that it is more equitable to students around the world who come where English is an official language and to remove stumbling blocks for students who come from poor countries.
- Adams said “primary language of instruction” should be the criterion rather than “official language,” as faculty in her college have had to supply language remediation for students from countries where English is an official language but not the main language of school instruction.
- Whitaker suggested we defer this action item until the next meeting to get Bascom to respond to Adams’s point.

2. Update from Academic Dishonesty Board on Turnitin’s Draft Coach

Nancy Legge, Chair of the Academic Dishonesty Board, sent to ASC the following statement: “The Academic Dishonesty Board met on December 5, 2022, to consider the status of Turnitin’s Draft Coach at ISU. This software program was suspended at the request of the ASC at its April 15, 2022 meeting, with instructions to the Academic Dishonesty Board to review this decision during the fall semester of 2022. Members of the Academic Dishonesty Board recommended unanimously that Draft Coach remain turned off indefinitely.” (discussion item)

- Members of the Academic Standards Council discussed this memo and approved the decision of the Academic Dishonesty Board.

3) Dual Degrees

ASC members reviewed the Excel document in [Box](#) provided by Vince Miller and Chris Cessna in Institutional Research. There were two tabs to it: the first summarizes the number of dual degrees by college; the second lists the number of dual degrees by department. A dual degree occurs when a student earns two separate degrees from ISU rather than one degree with a double major. ASC has been asked to reduce duplication of credit at ISU, and awarding double

majors rather than dual degrees when possible which will help accomplish this goal. Members took particular note of dual degrees in their own particular college. (discussion item)

- Whitaker presented the spreadsheet as provided by Miller and Cessna and explained the situation to the council.
- Mitchell brought to the attention of the council the fact that the College of Technology Associate's degrees were not represented on the spreadsheet but there are some situations from COT that fit this situation as well.
- This situation does not apply to different semesters or differing colleges. It applies to degrees in the same college in the same semester.
- Next meeting there will be a vote on a policy to reduce the dual degrees and change that to a single degree, double major.

4) Certificates

a) Website update from Curt Whitaker.

- Whitaker presented the website for certificates that has been put together by ISU's Marketing and Communications division so far.
 - Marcom is working on the filters for the websites but will take more time due to the difficulty in creating them.

b) Recent Guidance from Idaho SBOE on Microcredentials.

Members read the document in [Box](#) from the Idaho State Board of Education on microcredentials and technical certificates. The new language in blue provided a more explicit definition of microcredentials than has existed in the past and introduces digital badges. As ASC formulates ISU policy on certificates, it will need to include guidance on these additional forms of credentialing. (discussion item)

- Most of the credit numbers remain the same but now there is a limit of fifty-nine on advanced technical certificates.

5) Farewell to Ann Medinger

ASC has been notified that Ann Medinger has taken another position in Academic Affairs after serving ASC so well for so long. Thank you, Ann!

- Ann will remain in service to ASC until her replacement can be hired and trained. This will probably be until at least mid-February