

Academic Standards Council

Official Minutes for Friday, 17 February 2023, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

HyFlex Meeting: Room 102 (Administration Building) and Zoom

Attendance: Curt Whitaker, Susan Belliston, Carrie Bottenberg, Ruiling Guo, Timothy Leishman, Hala Abou Arraj, Lyle Castle, Tiffany Mitchell, Aaron Todd

Absent but Excused: Jen Adams, John Fitzpatrick

Administrative Assistant: Lisa Hunt

### **1) Second Bachelor's Degree**

ASC reviewed revised copy on the question of duplication with second Bachelor's degrees, with edits in response to our discussion from the ASC January meeting.

Suggested new policy wording to be placed under the section "Second Bachelor's Degree" on the "Degree Requirements" page of the ISU catalog:

**Earning two baccalaureate degrees concurrently:** When most students complete two majors within the same college during the same semester, they earn one degree with a double major. But if one major is a BA, for example, and the other is a BS, a second Bachelor's degree rather than a double major is awarded, as long as each degree contains at least fifteen credits of unique content. Two degrees are also awarded when two or more majors are completed in different colleges, and when a student completes two or more majors in different semesters rather than the same semester, as indicated immediately below.

This language will replace the following:

**Earning two baccalaureate degrees concurrently:** A student who has satisfied the individual requirements of each degree will be allowed to graduate with two degrees concurrently.

**ACTION-** Bottenberg motioned to accept policy with changed wording

Leishman seconded

Motion carried unanimously

## 2) Challenge Exams

ASC reviewed existing policy on challenge exams and suggested an additional sentence to this policy. Existing policy was written three years ago by Curt Whitaker in consultation with Jessica Winston, Chair of English and Philosophy. Subsequent experience with the policy suggests some clarification with regard to the testing timeline is needed.

Suggested new policy, with additional wording, under the section “Credit by Challenge Examination” on the “Alternative Credit Opportunities” page of the ISU catalog:

Both stages of this process, the petition and the examination, must be completed according to the following timeline: petitions must be filed in September or October and the exam administered by the end of November, or they must be filed in February or March and the exam administered by the end of April. Petitions are not reviewed and exams are not administered in the summer term. If a student neglects to take a challenge exam for which the student has petitioned, a new petition must be submitted during a subsequent spring or fall semester.

This language will replace the following:

Both stages of this process, the petition and the examination, must be completed according to the following timeline: petitions must be filed in September or October and the exam administered by the end of November, or they must be filed in February or March and the exam administered by the end of April. Petitions are not reviewed and exams are not administered in the summer term.

Mitchell brought up that the fee for the petitioned challenge exam would need to be paid again.

Belliston asked whether the challenge exam can be taken as a pass/fail test instead of a letter graded test. This question lies outside the question being voted upon but will be considered later by ASC.

**ACTION-** Bottenberg motioned to accept with added wording

Guo seconded

Motion carried unanimously

### 3) Certificates

#### a) Website

ASC reviewed a drafted introductory paragraph to be added to the ISU Certificates Webpage. The language is meant to be student-friendly; a more bureaucratic, third-person version of the paragraph will be suggested for placement in the ISU undergrad catalog. (discussion item)

Searching BengalWeb for certificates offered at ISU is uneven in effectiveness but is being worked on by ASC in association with MarComm; MarComm also continues to work on website formatting on cell phones.

#### b) Certificate Policy Comparisons

ASC reviewed certificate restriction policies at various institutions. These restrictions on certificates are examples of potential policies discussed during the meeting in January. (discussion item)

There are two principal types of restrictions under consideration: a restriction that limits the number of credentials students may earn, and a restriction that requires unique content in a certificate. Students with a compelling reason may petition for a restriction to be waived.

ASC is also drafting guidelines for earning certificates in combination with minors.

Abou Arraj requested that students file for a certificate at least one semester before they graduate.

Belliston is in favor of “stackable” credentials and suggested that certificates should be awarded as soon as the student completes the requirements instead of as an afterthought.

ASC is also drafting language to guide students on admission to certificate programs as accompaniments to degrees and as stand-alone credentials.

Whitaker has asked Vince Miller in Institutional Research for data on certificate frequency across campus and plans to share it at the March ASC meeting.

Adjourned at 3:09p.