

Academic Standards Council

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

HyFlex Meeting: Room 102 (Administration Building) and Zoom

Attending: Curtis Whitaker, Carrie Bottenberg, Ruiling Guo, Tim Leishman, Hala Abou Arraj, Tiffany Mitchell, Aaron Todd, Corey Zink

Attending by ZOOM: Jen Adams, Lyle Castle

Absent: John Fitzpatrick, Susan Belliston

Recording Secretary: Lisa Hunt

1) ISU Withdrawal Policy

Corey Zink, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, presented a proposal to adjust ISU's current Complete Withdrawal Policy and ask for ASC to provide input. Enrollment Management would like to put safeguards in place regarding students' complete withdrawal from the University.

Hala Abou Arraj shared a document with two options for a catalog change:

Option 1 – Before totally withdrawing from ISU, students must consult with their advisor first

Option 2 – Before totally withdrawing from ISU, it is highly recommended that students consult with their advisor first

ISU data show that approximately one hundred students per semester withdraw completely from ISU, with about twenty-five to thirty of those withdrawals occurring on the last day possible.

Aaron Todd has researched other universities that have policies like this in place and reports that Option 1 is the more popular choice.

An idea was suggested as a safeguard: as the students are completing the withdrawal procedure, a pop-up warning such as "Do you want to completely withdraw from the University?" appears before students complete the process so that they are completely aware of the actions of their withdrawal.

Tiffany Mitchell suggested other safeguards could be utilized if students don't reach out for assistance to their advisors but still need to withdraw.

ASC members will discuss the proposal further before voting on policy change for the 2023 catalog.

2) Data on the Number of Certificates and Minors Earned by ISU Students

Vince Miller in Institutional Research has provided data on the number of minors and certificates awarded per year by ISU. The data show the number of students graduating in a given year with two certificates and the number graduating in a given year with two minors. No student has earned three certificates or more in a year, and no student has earned three minors or more in a year. In a subsequent email exchange, Vince Miller has also informed ASC that no student has earned a combination of more than one certificate and more than one minor in a given year. This data is meant to provide insight to ASC to establish potential guidelines on the number of certificates and minors students may earn in a given year.

ASC is considering policy that will allow students to earn up to three minors and certificates in any combination in their graduation year. The goal of this policy would be to help students focus as they complete their degrees. It would also prevent students' last-minute stacking of minors and/or certificates based on previous classes they have taken instead of focusing on their major and preparing to graduate. This policy should have enough flexibility that it will not prevent ambitious students from pursuing multiple credentials if they are so motivated.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm.