

Academic Standards Council

Official Minutes for Friday, 20 January 2023, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

HyFlex Meeting: Room 102 (Administration Building) and Zoom

Attendance: Tiffany Mitchell, Timothy Leishman, Ruiling Guo, Carrie Bottenberg, Shawn Bascom, Curt Whitaker, Hala Abou Arraj, Lyle Castle, Jen Adams, Aaron Todd

Absent but Excused: John Fitzpatrick, Susan Belliston

Administrative Assistant: Ann Medinger

1) English Proficiency Test Exemptions

Council reviewed the document in Box titled *Index of Languages*, submitted by Shawn Bascom, Associate Director of Admissions and International Services. Shawn checked the countries given on his proposal against this list, which states English as the official language of instruction in each case. Shawn attended our meeting and answered questions as we considered again his proposal: 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 list. (action item)

Bascom presented to the council a brief explanation to back up the proposal. He reached out to the Association of International Educators (NAFSA), who recommended that this index be used.

For any problems with foreign students, Bascom's office has excellent ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) resources to assist the students in getting them through their education.

ACTION- Guo motioned to accept the proposal and list of countries as proposed by Shawn Bascom.

Leishman seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

2) Dual Degrees

In our last meeting ASC discussed data from Institutional Research on dual degrees across campus and considered tentative new language on this issue. Council reviewed in Box this new suggested language on dual Bachelor's degrees; if passed, it would replace the existing language given under the first paragraph of "Second Bachelor's Degree" in the "Degrees and Requirements" section of the undergraduate catalog. Associate degrees will not be affected. (action item)

ACTION- Guo motioned to make the following policy change:

Old language: **“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.”

New Language: **“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. If one major is a BA and the other is a BS, however, a dual degree rather than a double major is awarded. 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.”

Leishman seconded.

Discussion ensued.

Council felt the motion needed more consideration.

ACTION- Guo Withdrew the motion.

3) Certificates

a) Curt Whitaker gave an update on the new certificates website. A filter has been added to the website we viewed last time; the site will now come up as the first item in the Google search “Idaho State University Certificates.”

Council members tested the website and provided feedback. Whitaker will take feedback and continue to work with MarComm to improve the website for both computers and mobile devices.

Further discussion ensued regarding students earning certificates for work for which they are already completing a BA or BS. Some faculty want to limit the number of certificates a student can earn. Council discussed “double dipping” with degrees and certificates, and with multiple certificates, considering whether some limits should be put into place. Views on this question vary widely across campus, and Council anticipates finding a compromise solution that different units can work within.

Council briefly discussed “ChatGPT,” a new AI program that can produce prose that is hard to distinguish from human composition. The recently approved Academic Integrity Council has begun addressing this issue and plans to release guidelines later this semester.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm