

Academic Standards Council

Official Minutes for Friday, 19 April 2024, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

HyFlex meeting: Room 102, Administration Building, ZOOM

In Attendance: Curtis Whitaker, Carrie Bottenberg, Tim Leishman

By ZOOM: Jen Adams, Robin Lindbeck, Alex Rose

Absent: Susan Belliston

Ex Officio: Hala Abou Arraj, Janna Graham, Aaron Todd

Ex Officio on ZOOM: Tiffany Mitchell

Recording Secretary: Lisa Hunt

1. ASC Offices

As the first order of business, ASC has chosen a Chair and Vice Chair for the 2024-2025 term.

ACTION – Robin Lindbeck motioned to elect Curt Whitaker as the Chair of the ASC for the 2024-2025 term

Tim Leishman seconded

Motion carried unanimously

ACTION – Jen Adams volunteered to serve as the Vice Chair of the ASC for the 2024-2025 term

Carrie Bottenberg seconded

Motion carried unanimously

2. Scholastic Appeals Policy

Faculty Senate has approved the Scholastic Appeals Policy we voted on last month; Curt Whitaker updated ASC on final Senate edits to this policy. It has been discovered in the past week that the edits may have unintended impacts on a number of Colleges at ISU, including Pharmacy, Health Sciences, and Business.

The part of the policy in question is Section II.1: “Criteria for Student Dismissal.” ASC considered various possible revisions and prefers the following:

--to place the words “one or more of” following “A program may dismiss a student based on” in the stem for the section. This edit clarifies what is already written in the policy.

--to delete the “b” clause of the first criterion, which describes a two-thirds vote. Since some programs require students to participate in multiple departments as they complete their degrees, defining “department” here can prove difficult.

In discussion ASC considered that other possible edits to the policy will be taken up in the fall.

ACTION – Tim Leishman moved to endorse the above revision and take this back to FS next week

Carrie Bottenberg seconded

Motion carried unanimously

3. ISUPP #4000: Academic Integrity and Dishonesty

This policy is currently being reviewed by the Faculty Professional Policies Council; Curt Whitaker updated ASC on its progress. This Policy is referred to when a case of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism etc. is presented. Some changes in the current version under discussion include:

Discussion of Artificial Intelligence. This addition is meant to help faculty who need a more explicit policy regarding AI, while allowing considerable leeway as to what that policy might be. Also, the use of AI without proper citation is listed as a form of dishonesty, but this understanding of AI depends on whether an individual faculty member wants a citation for it or not; the goal is to help faculty who wish to restrict use of AI while not binding faculty who would like a freer approach.

Circumstances that trigger a hearing. In the existing policy, a hearing is triggered only when a student fails a course twice because of dishonesty, or when an instructor requests a hearing because of egregious behavior. The new policy states that a hearing is triggered automatically if there are three incidents of any kind (including failed assignments rather than just failed classes) involving the same student filed with the Registrar's Office.

A template form is accessible on the AIC website for faculty to report instances of student dishonesty; it is currently being revised to include autofill of some of the information for ease of use.

Makeup of panels. The members who make up a hearing panel have changed from three faculty and three students to three faculty and two students. This change has been made because of consensus among faculty and staff that faculty discretion and insight in dishonesty matters should carry more weight. Having a student perspective is still central to the operation of the panel, just in a reduced size.

Incorporation of the Academic Integrity Council (AIC). Now that the Academic Integrity Council exists, language of Policy #4000 will include discussion of the AIC.

Adjourned at 2:56p