Academic Affairs Committee
Report to Academic Senate

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May 5, 2011

Overview

- Center for Multidisciplinary Studies
  - Degree Certification
  - Curriculum Committee
- Grade Exclusion Policy
- Proposed Charge on PFOS
- Survey Results on Course Evaluation System
- Cross-Disciplinary Education
- Other

Center for Multidisciplinary Studies

- Open Issues affecting CMS Operations
  - Certification of CMS Degrees
  - Curriculum Committee for CMS
- Certification of Degrees
  - Policy D13.0 states "Academic deans will inform the Registrar's Office at the end of each quarter of those students who are expected to complete all degree requirements and graduate."
- AAC Recommendation:
  - Provost names a designee for CMS degree certifications (BS and MS)

Center for Multidisciplinary Studies

- Curriculum Committee for CMS degrees
  - Needed for Semester Conversion and beyond
- AAC Recommendation (per CMS Charter doc)
  - The Multidisciplinary Curriculum Committee will be comprised of: A faculty member from the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies; A college faculty representative from each college and degree granting institute; A representative of the Provost-Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Grade Exclusion Policy

- Currently there is no official grade exclusion policy, but grade exclusion is practiced.
- Grade exclusion guidelines are found on the back of the grade exclusion form
- AAC Recommendations
  - Charge the 2011-12 AAC to finalize the grade exclusion policy and propose it to be part of RIT's Policies and Procedures on Grades D5.0
  - Implement grade exclusion policy in the new GeneSIS system by fall 2013
  - Take into consideration financial aid implications

Grade Exclusion Policy Draft (AAC draft)

▸ Grade Exclusion Policy Draft (April 29. 2011): An undergraduate student may request the exclusion of grades from the calculation of his/her cumulative GPA for courses that are not specifically required for his/her program of study or minor. Grade exclusions are limited to a maximum of 24 quarter credit hours or to a maximum of 18 semester credit hours. Grade exclusion requests can be initiated by the student through his/her academic advisor at any time before a student is certified for his/her degree. Course exclusions may be removed (un-excluded) with permission from the student's academic unit. A course that is excluded from a student's cumulative GPA calculation will remain on a student's transcript, academic advising report and student records and will be marked as excluded. Grade exclusions do not affect the student's quarterly or semester GPA, but may impact financial aid eligibility. Grade exclusion does not apply to courses taken at other institutions.

Grade Exclusion Policy Draft (JL Draft)

▸ Grade Exclusion Policy Draft (Proposed by Joe Lofffredo, May 2, 2011): An undergraduate student may request the exclusion of grades from the calculation of his/her term and cumulative GPA for courses that are not specifically required for his/her graduation requirements. Note: Hours earned for excluded courses may be applied toward University-wide free electives. ~~program of study or minor~~. Grade exclusions are limited to a maximum of 24 quarter credit hours or to a maximum of 18 semester credit hours. Grade exclusion requests can be initiated by the student through his/her academic advisor at any time before a student is certified for his/her degree. Grade exclusions may be removed (un-excluded) with permission from the student's academic unit. All courses that ~~is~~ are excluded from a student's term and cumulative GPA calculations will remain on a student's transcript, academic advising report and student records and will be marked as excluded. ~~Grade exclusions do not affect the student's quarterly or semester GPA~~. Grade exclusion does not apply to courses taken at other institutions. Note: If a student subsequently elects to repeat a previously excluded course the exclusion will be removed and the repeat policy will be enforced. Student questions about how a grade exclusion may affect financial aid should be discussed with the student's financial aid counselor.

Survey Results on Course Evaluations

▸ Survey Results on Course Evaluation System
▸ Files available for Academic Senate and RIT community
  ▸ Summary of Survey Results and all Comments
  ▸ Email Discussion and Feedback to Academic Senate
  ▸ NTID Recommendations

Survey Results on Course Evaluations

- AAC Findings and Recommendations
  - Faculty are divided in opinions regarding the recommendations of the Course Evaluation Taskforce Report.
  - Rolling out the new online course evaluation system in the fall is premature.
  - Following President Destler's email suggestion: Best practices should be utilized in designing the course evaluations. If properly designed and managed, such an evaluation system can be useful to faculty and students.
  - AAC recommends the formation of a new taskforce in 2011-12 to review the original charge as well as all feedback received, and recommend a consistent university-wide process for student evaluation of courses and teaching that includes a set of core questions, reflects appropriate use of technology and is based on best practice in the field.

Charge of Original Task Force on Student Evaluation of Courses and Instructors

Recommend a consistent university-wide process for student evaluation of courses and teaching. Please consider the following points in arriving at a recommendation:

1. The process should be consistent across campus and based on best practice in the field related to instrument design, administration, data collection, report format and use of results.

2. There should be a set of 5-7 core questions that adequately reflect the essentials of teaching excellence at RIT. In addition, there should be a bank of additional formative questions.

3. The process should reflect appropriate use of technology. The current RIT optical scanning service associated with student ratings is 38 years old and is built on outdated, non-supported technology. According to ITS, it is highly probable that services could not be restored should an extreme outage occur. Given this, the university will need to replace the technology and the configuration of the technology based on needs or buy a new system and the associated processing from the marketplace.

4. In arriving at a recommendation the task force should explore products within RIT (e.g., On-line Evaluation System) as well as student rating products and services including IDEA Center products (http://www.theideacenter.org/node/5), the University of Washington Instructional Assessment System (IAS) and other commercially produced and supported systems.

Cross Disciplinary Education

- Structure that supports Cross Disciplinary Education consistent with CMS Charter and Cross-Disciplinary Task Force Report

- AAC developed Org Chart template to encompass cross-disciplinary activities.

- The committee is divided on some important elements of the Org Chart.
  - More information and time for discussion needed on Scope, Resources needed, Faculty Participation, Research, etc.

- AAC Recommendation: A committee or taskforce should be charged to investigate this item in 2011-12.

Other Activities

▸ Feedback on Dean of Graduate Studies Charter

▸ Feedback on Policies affected by Semester Conversion

Thank you!