

APPROVED SLATE OF CHARGES FOR AY2015-16

RIT ACADEMIC SENATE

September 17, 2015

Academic Affairs Committee

1. Review Policy D02.0 and suggest revisions, as deemed necessary, to ensure compliance with MSCHE Accreditation Standards.
2. Examine possible changes to the grading policy, including further refinements of the A and D grades.
3. Re-assess D08.0, D18.0, and D18.1, in consultation with the Division of Student Affairs, regarding further revisions, to reflect needs such as (for D18.0) Title IX compliance on matters of sexual harassment and sexual violence that have become apparent since new processes were implemented as of May 2013.
4. Investigate the intended nature of the University Appeals Board, its functions and composition in current policy and implications for proposing policy revisions with regard to appeals in academic matters.
5. Evaluate and recommend changes to the stated policy for Research Center creation and review, particularly related to the Center's responsibility to be transparent about requirements and decision making process for faculty affiliation as well as overall operation. Evaluate and recommend changes to the affiliation agreement, particularly where they relate to faculty place of work, access to Center resources and academic freedom.
6. Investigate the effectiveness of the RIT Suggestion Box Program and its value-add to RIT.
7. Continue to work with the Office of Legal Affairs and the Administration on the definitions for academic units.

Academic Support and Student Affairs Committee

1. The IP Policy includes an appeals provision which would allow faculty to bring questions regarding ownership to the RIT Intellectual Property Policy Committee and then the appropriate divisional vice president (See C03.0 (IV) (N)). Investigate if this policy ensures and has the proper safeguards for faculty, and propose revisions if found otherwise.
2. Follow up on the consultant's recommendations for improving the students counseling and health centers programs and services.

3. Review policy D17.0 Final course grade dispute policy and make sure it is compliant with other policies.
4. Review current policies related to the confidentiality and privacy of student health information and propose necessary changes to the ways in which policies are communicated to students, faculty, staff, and families (hereafter “consumers”).
 - a) Determine (to the extent possible) what student health information at RIT is covered under the more restrictive HIPPA law and what information is covered under the more permissive FERPA law.
 - b) Propose changes as necessary to ensure that a reasonable consumer would understand the degree to which health information is protected from unwanted and unexpected disclosure, either by prohibiting unwanted disclosures or by ensuring consumer knowledge of potential disclosure.
 - c) Examine the disclosure of student health information in university disciplinary proceedings.

Faculty Affairs Committee

1. Investigate the potential of adding teaching responsibilities in the plan of work of administrators (Chairs/Heads, Directors, Associate Deans, Deans, Vice Presidents, Associate Provosts, Provost, President) in order to maintain first-hand contact with learning experience of RIT students.
2. Review and edit as necessary the policies below:
 - a) E04.0 Faculty Employment Policy
 - b) E05.0 – Tenure – Clarify options for withdrawing from tenure review
 - c) E06.0 Promotion - Review of NTT ranks – Option to Withdraw – Minimum Time between Promotions
 - d) E06.1 University Professor New policy
 - e) E08.0 Search Policy on Administrators – Review
 - f) E13.0 Faculty Salary Policy – review and consider findings/suggestions from the Advance group and in consultation with HR
 - g) E14.0 Appeal Committee on Faculty Salaries, consider findings and suggestions from the Advance group and in consultation with HR
 - h) E18.0 Professional Leave – Substantial Change in Scope of Proposal
 - i) E20.0 Discontinuance of Academic Programs
 - j) E21.0 Transfer of Tenure-Track Faculty
 - k) E21.1 Evaluate the need for a new policy on *Transfer or Elimination of Tenure-Track Positions*.
 - l) E22.0 Policy on Exigency
3. Continue to work on the combination of the two related charges below:

- a) Determine the extent of faculty and student evaluation of chairs, associate deans, and deans. Are faculty given enough input into performance, and/or is faculty feedback adequately taken into account in these evaluations?
 - b) Explore the idea of making deans and associate deans' self-evaluation and plan of work available to the faculty of their respective colleges.
4. Consider exploring the potential for university-wide guidelines to help colleges determine appropriate voting rights for NTT faculty. The voting privileges of non-tenure track faculty are stated in B2.0 as "...vote on matters that fall within the purview of their rank and title as defined by E6.0 or specified by policy..."
5. Explore and report on the hiring processes and use of adjunct faculty across the university.

General Education Committee

1. Redesign the General Education portion of the RIT Course Outline form to reflect recent changes in the definition of General Education.
2. Design a protocol for approving Special Topics and/or Independent Study courses as General Education.
3. Update the GEC web site to reflect recent changes, and to clarify protocols.
4. Consider new and revised **courses** that are put forth for designation as General Education.
5. Consider new and revised **immersions** that are put forth for designation as General Education.

Global Education Task Force

1. Investigate the relationship between RIT and faculty at global campuses.
2. Develop a standardized process for proposing and implementing new academic programs at global locations.
3. Propose a mechanism with which international activities by faculty (research projects, faculty-led study abroad, etc.) can be collected and disseminated to the campus at large.
4. Work with the Provost office to formally propose and direct implementation of the Global Certificate for undergraduate students. This certificate has been informally developed and circulated but needs to be worked through the relevant committees and offices to become official.

5. Explore with the office of Global Education ways to increase studying abroad and enrollment at our overseas campuses.
6. Investigate the need for a formal process for RIT faculty to visit and teach at other campuses.

Graduate Council

1. Articulate a vision and recommendations for how to implement the graduate education goals and objectives of the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan.
2. Establish a set of guidelines for submission of graduate degrees and certificate proposals.
3. Investigate and report upon the enrollment projection process.
4. Establish guidelines for Graduate Minors.
5. Explore the possibility of awarding an MS to PhD students after they have completed the requirements for an MS degree. Make recommendations to Academic Senate as appropriate.
6. Study the requirement for PhD students to be physically present on campus for a certain number of semesters and provide a recommendation if this requirement should be changed.
7. Work on issues related to guidelines, standards, paperless archiving, timing, and certification after submission of graduate theses/dissertations.
8. Given the increasing number of RIT graduates, explore the possibility of awarding graduate degrees in college ceremonies or in a separate ceremony.

Institute Writing Committee

1. Monitor and report to Academic Senate on the implementation of the Institute Writing Policy.
2. Identify meaningful practices for assessing Writing Intensive courses and facilitate assessment of Writing Intensive courses in Gen Ed and programs.
3. Highlight University best practices in Writing Intensive course instruction.

Inter-college Curriculum Committee

1. Work with the Honors program to revise Policy D01.0 to clearly outline curricular requirements and processes with regards to the Honors program.
2. Consider the merits of implementing a transparent process in which comments on concept papers can be viewed by RIT community at large. ICC is encouraged to coordinate with Graduate Council as deemed necessary.

Long Range Planning and Environment Committee

1. Provide recommendations and guide the development of a Green component to the Campus Master Plan.
2. Assist with the assessment of the Ombud's Office.
3. Monitor existing environmental initiatives and propose potential modifications or new initiatives as deemed necessary.

Nominations Committee

This committee will consist of the most recent past chair of Academic Senate and all the AS IC Members. From among this list, four faculty members will be decided upon to serve on this committee for AY2015 to secure at large member for committees, to secure members if needed on the Grievance Committee and to craft in the spring a slate for the Executive Committee elections. Term is one year for this committee.

Resource Allocation and Budget Committee

1. Review and assess RIT's plan to fund the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan.
2. Review and assess RIT's financial goals for the upcoming capital campaign.
3. Assess RIT's financial support of all our international campuses.
4. Develop criteria for identifying best-fit benchmark schools.
5. Review and assess the method of allocating budget and other resources based upon enrollment – majors versus credit hours generated.

