

MVCC COLLEGE SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Name of Committee:

ACADEMIC POLICY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Academic Year: 2010-11

Committee Chairperson's Name:

Cheryl K. Plescia (appointed Oct., 2010)

Names of Committee members:

Leslie Goerner - Faculty
Jennifer Krohn - Faculty
William Judycki - Faculty
Cheryl Plescia - Faculty
Tom Capraro: substituted by Stacy McCall - Faculty
Carolyn D'Argenio: substituted by Deborah Boyce - Faculty
Jason Yager – Information Technology
Robert Jubenville – Dean from Life & Health Sciences
Rosemary Spetka - Registrar
Rich Pucine – Director of Academic Systems
Jennifer DeWeerth – Asst. Dean for Student Enrollment/Advising
Stephen Frisbee – Chair of CWCC
Ron Cantor: seat is currently vacant – Dean of Rome Campus
Maryrose Eannace –VPLAA (non-voting member)
Jennifer Gerrard – Student Representative

COMMITTEE CHARGE:

The purpose of the Academic Policies and Standards Committee is to review and advise on matters pertaining to academic policy including academic standards. Regarding such, the committee makes recommendations to the College Senate, conducts research and standards at other colleges, reviews and ensures accuracy of academic policies and standards statements in the College Catalog, and submits annual written reports to the Senate making meeting minutes available to the College community.

Number of Meetings:

From October, 2010 to April, 2011, this committee has held eight meetings. Dates are as follows: 10/28/10, 11/11/10, 12/2/10, 1/25/11, 2/8/11, 2/15/11, 3/8/11, and 4/12/11. Minutes of all meetings are within the College Public Folders.

Summary of Committee Meetings:

10/28/10: President R. VanWagoner came as a guest to this meeting. We began with clarification about the purpose of this committee, reporting lines (to the Senate), and discussion related to differences between academic standards and policies (policies are within the Board Manual.) The President recommended that this committee create an annual agenda of topic areas always reminding ourselves toward remembering “How do our academic standards facilitate student completion.” The President further recommended for this committee to examine the following areas:

- ED100 required in the first semester
- Academic Amnesty
- Exploration: credit creep-caps in degrees or certificates
- Exploration: credit for life experience and testing-out standards
- Standards for hidden pre-requisites

Other topics in this meeting included: the name of this committee, the role of the DGV requirement and graduation, standardization vs. individualization/differentiation, and securing a student member for this committee. Minutes posted in public folders.

11/11/10: Vice President Eannace brought proposals to this committee for examination/discussion: Graduation Application Proposed Policy, Placement Testing Proposed Policy, and Academic Amnesty Proposed Policy. Discussion followed within all of these areas. Research was requested regarding other SUNY institutions. Minutes posted in public folders.

12/2/10: Review and discussion continued regarding the following proposals: Graduation Application Policy, Placement Testing Policy, and Academic Amnesty Policy. The Graduation Application Policy was unanimously approved by the committee and sent to VPLAA for inclusion in the MVCC catalog. This policy is as follows:

“In order to ensure greater accuracy in graduation certification, students must have successfully completed at least 70% of the total credits in their degree program or 50% of their certificate program before applying for graduation. Any exceptions must be approved by the Center Dean or Associate Dean.”

Research from 18 SUNY institutions regarding Academic Amnesty Policy was presented by Kate Barefoot and discussed by the committee. Discussion also occurred regarding the President’s priority list for this committee to explore this spring semester. Minutes posted in public folders.

1/25/11: Discussion continued regarding the proposed Academic Amnesty Policy. Many issues/concerns were explored. Positions and policies of 18 other academic institutions were fully discussed. C. Plescia created and dispersed a graph of policy requirements from the other institutions. Minutes posted in public folders.

2/8/11: The committee had three different documents for a potential Academic Amnesty Policy who were submitted by Dr. Eannace with changes made by the committee and another new document submitted by R. Spetka just prior to this meeting. Discussion took place combining ideas from both policy draft submissions. J. Yager gave an update on BANNER in regards to ED100 standards. Minutes posted in public folders.

2/15/11: Three different proposed Academic Amnesty Policies were inspected and ideas were incorporated into one document. Discussion took place as to what should be stated in the College Catalogue and what should be included within the Student Handbook.. A proposed Placement Testing Policy was also

reviewed. It was decided to include the following statement to the current College Catalogue write-up: "Students may be determined to be exempt from taking the placement test. Other exemptions will be determined on an individual basis." This committee recognized that if the policy should be further changed that this needs to be generated from the part of the College most directly involved in placement testing. An email to this regard was forwarded on to J. DeWeerth. ED100. Minutes posted in public folders.

3/8/11: There was clarification as to Dr. Eannace's role in that she is not a guest, but a non-voting member. Continued work occurred regarding a new draft of the proposed Academic Amnesty Policy and the two versions one for the College Catalogue and one for the Student Handbook. A few changes were made and a decision was made to review final changes and vote via email on this policy. If voted as approved the chairperson would present this new policy to the Senate for the April meeting. Work then continued regarding ED100, and report was given indicating that a design team was in the process of being created to look more closely at this area for potential revisions. A decision was made by the committee to forward on a letter about ED100 to President VanWagoner about this committee's current recommendations regarding ED100. It was recommended that the design team closely inspect potential details and submit to APSC their findings; after review there, this may need to be submitted to the CWCC for approval. An early exploration discussion began regarding credit creep cap. Committee is awaiting minutes to review, approve/alter, and submit to public folders.

4/12/11: New committee member elections were announced. A vote occurred that Cheryl Plescia would continue as the Chairperson for this committee for the academic year 2011-2012. Discussion occurred related to Academic Amnesty Policy. The email vote was unanimous in approval of this policy. Discussion also occurred related to the presentation of this policy to the Senate, and this committee has come to a decision to request from Senate to have an Information Technology consultant/liaison be added to the membership of the APSC. Further discussion occurred related to the informational letter to be sent to President VanWagoner regarding ED100; all were in agreement. Discussions began related to degree and certificate credit creep and life experience credit. More research needs to occur in these areas. Minutes are in the process of creation. Next meeting is set for 5/10/11.

Recommendations for College Senate Action:

Due to the number of potential policies that this committee examines that also have an impact on Information Technology (computer software systems utilized at MVCC), it is recommended by this committee to have an Information Technology consultant/liaison be added to the membership of the APSC.

Submitted by:

Cheryl K. Plescia

Date:

4/15/11