

## **Annual Report – Academic Policies Committee –2020-2021**

Committee Members: Edward Gero (CVPA), Catherine Sausville (COS), Zachary Schrag (CHSS), Suzanne Slayden (COS, Chair), Jie Zhang (COS)

The main work of the Committee occurred early in the academic year as the Committee prepared options for a change to the Spring, 2021 Academic Calendar. The Administration had urged that there be no Spring Break because of the covid-19 pandemic. Three options, prepared in conjunction with the Provost's office, were presented to the Faculty Senate on Sept. 30, 2020. After discussion, the Senate determined that at the upcoming Oct. 14 continuation meeting, it would vote to approve one of the two most highly rated proposals. In the meantime, a message from the Faculty Senate to the general faculty would be sent urging faculty to express their opinions to their Senators. At the second meeting, the Faculty Senate approved one of the proposals. See the Minutes of September 30, 2020 and October 14, 2020.

The Chair of the Committee continued to attend the Policy Management Group (PMG) monthly meetings where several issues related to academic policies have been discussed. In particular, several minor changes to the catalog have been proposed and approved there and will be presented as a package to the Faculty Senate in Fall, 2021. Additionally, there have been discussions on the cross-level listing of graduate and undergraduate courses, the "Never Attended" grade of F, and application of the Dean's list policy.

At present, the Committee is discussing the Summer 2021 and the 3-year 2022-2025 academic calendar.

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### **Appendix**

1. During the past calendar year has the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President (or their respective offices) announced initiatives or goals or acted upon issues that fall under the charge of your Committee? If so, was your Committee consulted by the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President in a timely manner before the announcement or action? If not, do you believe your Committee should have been consulted? Would it have been helpful to have had the input of your Committee from the outset?

The Committee and the Provost's office worked rapidly and in concert concerning the Spring 2021 calendar changes.

Changes to the academic calendar on the Registrar's website were done without informing the Committee or the Senate.

2. Did your Committee seek information or input from the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President or members of their staffs? If so, did they respond adequately and in a timely manner?

One issue in particular is requiring several communications as the committee seeks supporting documentation for summer calendar changes.

3. Please suggest how you believe the President, Provost, Senior Vice President and/or their staffs might more effectively interact with your Committee in the future, if necessary.

There seems to be inadequate regard for faculty advice regarding changes to the academic calendar. The registrar's website records "approval dates" for actions by the Faculty Senate on dates when the Senate did not meet.

4. Please relate any additional information you may have regarding interactions between your Committee and the President, Provost, Senior Vice President, or their staff.

It has been extremely helpful to have Committee participation in the Policy Management group, where some academic policy matters, or issues tangential to them, originate.

Dr. Matt Smith, Director of Accreditation, has consistently asked for faculty feedback on the issues that affect the upcoming university review.