Academic Standards Committee Meeting
September 9, 2009

Present: Tim Beyer, Debbie Chee, Ken Clark, Betsy Kirkpatrick, Ben Lewin, Martins Linauts, Gary McCall, Sarah Moore, Jack Roundy, Maria Sampen, David Scott, Brad Tomhave, Seth Weinberger, Carolyn Weisz, Linda Williams, and Steven Neshyba (Senate liaison)

Organization. Steven Neshyba, the Faculty Senate liaison to the ASC, convened the meeting at 1:00pm. Seth Weinberger was elected chair. The committee decided to rotate secretarial duties among its members. Debbie Chee was volunteered to go first.

Charges. Neshyba did not have the charges for the ASC from the Faculty Senate. Working from last year’s End-of-Year report to the Senate, the committee determined that carryover business included the following: We are working off last year’s charges.

1. Continue work on implementing the honor code.
2. Continue work on supplementing the academic honesty policy in the handbook with online material.
3. Clarify the reading period policy and the status of informal review sessions.
4. Revisit the ASC’s decision to require academic advisors in the major and consider more broadly the relative overload of academic advising in some departments.

Business

Membership of the petitions subcommittee during the fall semester. The petitions subcommittee will meet for an hour on Wednesdays at 2:00pm. Sarah Moore urged that some members of the petitions subcommittee attend the meetings of the main committee to insure coordination between the two bodies. The following individuals volunteered or were appointed to the petitions subcommittee for the fall semester: Debbie Chee, Ken Clark, Betsy Kirkpatrick, Martins Linauts, Sarah Moore, David Scott, Brad Tomhave, Carolyn Weisz, Linda Williams, and the two students who have yet to be named by the ASUPS president.

Authority delegated to Office of the Registrar and Petition Preview Team. Tomhave emailed a document to the committee that specified powers that in the past have been delegated by the ASC to the Office of the Registrar and to the Petition Preview Team. ASC voted to delegate authority to the Office of the Registrar and the Petition Preview Team on 9/9/09.

Petitions subcommittee report. Tomhave reported on the activity of the petitions subcommittee during summer 2009 as well as during the entire academic year 2008-09:

11 petitions meetings scheduled during the summer for the period 5/1/2009 – 9/2/2009 with the following approvals and denials:
3 – Late Adds.
8 – Readmission/Reinstatement.
5 – Re-enrollment from Medical Withdrawal.
3 – Change from pass/fail grading option to letter grade.
1 – Time conflicts.
6 – Medical Withdrawals.
11 – “Last 8 Units Rule.”
  1 – Course repeat for 2nd (or more) time.
  1 – Minimum GPA for Internship.
  3 – Minimum GPA for Independent Study.
  1 – Attend Community College after Junior Class Standing.
  3 – Foreign Language.
  1 – Waiver of Upper-Division Requirement.
  1 – Drop after Last Day of Class.
  4 – Drop with “W” grade rather than “WF.”
  1 – Regression.
  1 – Extend Incomplete Deadline.

54 approved

  1 – Late add.
  2 – Readmission or Reinstatement.
  1 – Medical Withdrawal.
  1 – Minimum Grade Point Average for an Internship.
  2 – Attend Community College after Junior Class Standing.
  1 – Drop without record after the deadline.

8 denied

62 TOTAL (13 fewer than last summer’s 85 petitions.)

For the year September 5, 2008 to September 2, 2009:

233 petitions decided.
199 approved.
  30 by Registrar.
  52 by Petition Preview Team.
  117 by Petitions Sub-Committee.
31 denied by the Sub-Committee.
3 no action.

7 double-digit petition issues for 2008-2009 that comprise more than 3/4 of petition actions:
49 – Late Add (21%).
28 – Readmission or Reinstatement (12%).
34 – Time Conflicts (14.6%).
16 – Medical Withdrawal (6.9%).
25 – Last 8 Units (10.7%).
12 – Minimum GPA for Independent Study (5.2%).
12 – Drop with W (5.2%).

176 total (75.5%)

Petitions totals for previous years:

   2007-2008 – 238 (39 time conflict petitions, 19.3%)
   2006-2007 – 308 (54 time conflict petitions, 17.5%)
   2005-2006 – 252 (61 time conflict petitions, 24.2%)
   2004-2005 – 271 (59 time conflict petitions, 21.8%)
   2003-2004 – 289 (52 time conflict petitions, 18.0%)
   2002-2003 – 330 (64 time conflict petitions, 19.4%)

Petitions of particular interest:

Student asked to be re-admitted under provisions of Academic Re-Evaluation Policy whereby all grades below C and his Pass grades would be “dropped from consideration.” Committee decided policy did not apply to a Puget Sound courses and grades.

3 students with Foreign Language petitions this summer and it seems the Committee could use a list of substitute courses.

Student granted an exception to the Upper-Division requirement first asked to apply a lower-division course that had been an upper-division course. This petition denied and student appealed with an excess major course that applied to another program.

Student allowed to withdraw after the last day of classes had an incomplete grade with the provision to complete remaining work by joining the class when offered in the next semester. Committee found that student should have withdrawn and registered again for the class.

Student granted an exception to regression rule did not understand the application of her International Baccalaureate credit and was not warned against taking a course preliminary to the course for which she had already received credit.
Student granted an extension to the incomplete deadline made this request based on health considerations that contributed to the student not submitting the work as required.

**Other topics for the committee to consider:** In the course of the committee’s discussion, several other issues were identified as possible topics for the ASC in 2009-10.

1. Review the protocol for Academic Honesty hearing boards.
2. Review the 16-unit rule and practices.
3. Review the current practice of independent study.
4. Discuss the practice of excess courses.
5. Create a new policy for Pass/Fail course.

**Meeting times for the committee.** The committee decided to meet every other week on Wednesdays from 1:00pm – 2:00pm. Meetings will be held in the McCormick Room. The next meeting will be held on September 23, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned.

Notes taken by Debbie Chee