
**ACADEMIC POLICY COUNCIL
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2006**



Absent: Fleming, Lewis, Payne, Plishker, Price (Philip Morris attended), Ringo, Stevens, Ward

Visitor: Don Freeman

1. Approval of APC minutes of March 22, 2006. The minutes were approved as presented.
2. Council of Academic Deans minutes of March 8 and 29, April 12 and 26, May 10 and 24, June 14 and 28, 2006. The minutes were reviewed.
3. Update on Review of Academic Policy Statements.
 - a. APS 930129—Enrollment in Thesis or Dissertation Courses. Dr. Muehsam will bring the policy back to APC at a future meeting.
 - b. APS 910116—Off-Campus Instruction. Dr. Hebert will bring the policy back to APC at a future meeting.
 - c. APS 940202—Payments to University Employees for Services. Dean Lewis will bring the policy back to APC at a future meeting.
 - d. APS 801014—Graduate Faculty Status. Dr. Muehsam indicated that the proposed revisions to the draft policy statement had been sent to the Faculty Senate for input. He indicated that the major changes in the policy included the following:
 - The revisions make the policy clearer concerning what it takes to be on the graduate faculty and what it takes to chair a master's thesis or dissertation.
 - A definitive cycle is prescribed as to when a faculty member is reviewed for renewal of membership on the graduate faculty: at the time of tenure, promotion, and post-tenure review.
 - Chairs, deans, and Graduate Council will all have input into the appointment of graduate faculty.

Dean de Castro suggested that an addition be made concerning graduate faculty status for newly hired faculty. Dr. Muehsam will attend to that request. The policy will be placed on a future APC agenda after the Faculty Senate has reviewed.

Reminder: APC is in the process of reviewing all Academic Policy Statements in an effort to ensure the policies are up to date and compliant with current legislation, Regents' Rules and Regulations, Coordinating Board guidelines, etc. The policies are being reviewed in the order in which they are listed in the numerical indices of the Academic Policy Manual, beginning with the Faculty Section.

When this process began, the intent was to review three policies at each meeting. However, some policies are requiring additional time for review. As soon as some of the policies currently under review are brought forward for action, new policies will be distributed for consideration.

4. Recommendations from Distinguished Professor Review Committee. Dr. Don Freeman, Chair of the Distinguished Professor Review Committee, presented recommendations to APS 860425, “Designation of Distinguished Professors,” on behalf of the committee. First, the committee recommended “that a timeline be established for recognition as Distinguished Professor that is similar to timelines established for promotion to regular ranks.” Second, the paragraph regarding external referees should be modified to state that the minimum number of outside referees should be increased from one to three and that some remuneration be offered to these outside referees.

The Council of Academic Deans recommended adding Section 1.04: The rank of Distinguished Professor should recognize the individual who exemplifies outstanding performance in all three areas of teaching, research, and service to the extent that he/she serves as a role model to the faculty.

It was agreed that the Distinguished Professor Review Committee would have flexibility to come up with requirements for the written reports from outside referees. In addition, some modification was recommended for Section 3.07. Further, recommendations were made to make the timeline part of the policy. The motion was made and seconded to endorse revisions to the referenced policy. Passed unanimously.

5. 120-hour rule. Dr. Eglsaer briefed members on the concept that, effective fall 2008, the maximum number of hours for a baccalaureate degree should be no more than the minimum required by SACS (120 hours), unless an institution has compelling reasons for more hours. Decisions for the 2008 catalog must be made by fall 2007. Therefore, department chairs and faculty need to begin reviewing every program in their respective areas and examining the number of hours required, determining if the number of hours can be reduced and, if so, how this reduction can be accomplished. Dr. Payne has indicated that he will be willing to consider a reduction of the core from the institutionally-designated component. However, he would like to have this option reviewed by a faculty committee. Dr. Payne has requested that Dean Hebert look at the current policy in terms of reducing the number of required hours from 128 to 120.

APC members agreed that whenever a department can justify reducing the required hours from 128 to 120, they should do so and the change will become effective immediately (with the dean’s approval).

6. Course Fees. Dr. Eglsaer shared findings of the Course Fees audit.
7. Construction progress. Dr. Eglsaer reported on the status of the various construction and renovation projects.

8. Enrollment picture. Dr. Eglsaer indicated that a 3 percent increase in enrollment was anticipated.
9. Positions for next year. Dr. Eglsaer reported that the current faculty-to-student ratio is 1:18 but needs to be about 1:22.
10. Accreditations. Dr. Eglsaer stated that the educational counseling program had received an eight-year accreditation and the clinical psychology program had received preliminary reports that it will receive accreditation in the fall.
11. UH proposal update. Dr. Eglsaer updated members on the status of the UH northwest campus proposal.
12. Miscellaneous.

Library open house. Ms. Holder announced that the Newton Gresham Library open house is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, August 29 and 30.

Dorothy Roberson
Recorder