



Academic Standards Committee

Minutes

February 6th 2015

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Rooms : Lee (I -122), Collier (G-109), Charlotte (J -118)

Facilitator	Tejendrasinh Vala, Chair
Subject	Possible Tasks for Academic Standards Committee Fall 2014/Spring 2015
Attendees	Teju Vala; Eileen DeLuca; Thomas Mohundro; Natala Orobello; William VanGlabek; Marius Coman; Karen Maguire; Qin Liu; Garnett Salmon; Regina Miller; Christy Gilfert; Don Warren; Cynthia Enslin;
Excused	
Guests	Dr. Collins; Dr. Elsberry; Mr. Andrae Jones
Absent	Cindy Campbell;

1. Meeting started sharp at 12:00 pm on Friday February 6th 2015.
2. While waiting for invited guests, Dr. Vala began with second item on the agenda. During a previous meeting, the committee requested Prof. Mohundro and Prof Orobello to ask for the opinion from English department on the requirements for writing intensive courses. According to Prof. Mohundro, the department of English recommended to continue to use the 4000 words requirement for writing intensive courses. The committee would honor the decision made by the English department. Dr. Vala once again would consult with Prof Amanda Lehrian to ask for final suggestion.
3. Committee welcomed invited guests Dr. Collins, Dean, School of Healthcare Professions and Mr. Andrae Jones, director of Academic advising who joined the meeting. Dr. Vala explained to Dr. Collins that the committee is working on a task to remove “AS Only” designation from courses where appropriate. Dr. Vala also mentioned that the committee has received a list of “AS Only” course from Dr. Wright’s office. It appears that all the courses on that list are from School of Health Professions and which is why the committee invited her to get her opinion.
4. The committee shared that during a previous meeting with Dean of School of Business and Technology, Dr. Meyer and Dr. Rath shared that if a faculty teaching the course meets Master’s or higher qualification then it is possible to remove the AS designation. Additionally, the School



of Business and Technology revised curricula to ensure that all courses demonstrate the appropriate academic rigor to count as an AA elective.

5. The committee asked for Dr. Collins' input on how to process the change? If courses previously designated as "AS Only" had that distinction removed, it is possible that the course could count as an AA elective course. This may help students who are seeking an AS and AA simultaneously and/or students who choose to seek an AA after completing an AS.
6. Dr. Collins shared that the School of Health Professions supports the removal of the AS designation where appropriate. She shared that her faculty have Master's or higher qualification or have documented alternate qualifications approved by VPAA in the area they teach. The AS degree is now designated as transfer degree (1) and basis for admission to related bachelor's degree, she added.
7. Garnett Salmon asked if that would include the EMT course.

Dr. Collins explained that in the School of Health Professions, the only non-transfer course/degree are those in PSAV Firefighter Minimum Standards Certificate. Those credits are awarded as clock hours, not college credit, therefore EMT courses would not count. (1)

8. Dr. Coman asked that removing AS designation would lower or compromise the level of course/s? That would not be the case as quality of course and faculty teaching the course remains the same, Dr. Collins replied.
9. Dr. Collins expressed her concern regarding SACS Standard 2.7.3. She explained that most SoHP programs are disciplined focus. These courses have different requirements than others. Dr. Collins asked Dr. Elsberry to share his opinion as he joined the meeting from Lee campus.

According to Dr. Elsberry, there are three main areas of concern on such issue.

- Curriculum
- Legislative issue
- Matters of efficiency

The main idea is to have courses transferable to other universities. Dr. Elsberry explained that most medical schools do not require specific undergraduate degrees. For example, a degree in History along with Bio and Organic Chem could be admitted to med school. This is a huge benefit to students. Dr. Elsberry believes SACS standards are strict about General Education course requirements, however this discussion is about AA electives. Removing the AS distinction



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would not mean that the course could satisfy the General Education requirement. It would just mean that it could count as an AA elective.

10. Dr. Collins shared that according to Rule 6A-10.024 Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts (5a-f), an Association in Science degree are transferable into related Baccalaureate programs.

10. Dr. Collins will consult with her associate deans and directors to do final review of the AS designated courses. Removing the AS distinction would need to be taken through the Curriculum Committee by the faculty/deans from each program.

The committee thanked Dr. Collins and Dr. Elsberry for joining and providing insight to the topic.

11. While committee finds no significant changes to make on the Policy of Good Academic Standing, Andrae Jones mentioned that there has been a proposal submitted to Dr. Wright's office to increase academic probation limits from nine to twelve credit hours.

Garnett Salmon shared that allowing to 12 credit does not mean required to 12. Andrae added that this proposal will be reviewed by Dr. Wright.

12. Karen Maguire asked about the purpose of increasing the limit to 12 credit hours. Are there any evidence showing the current policy is not working or increasing to 12 would benefit students? The committee would like to take a look at some data.

Andrae will ask Susan Potts from the Advising office to share the data. Dr. Vala will collect some data.

Meeting ended at 1:00 pm.

REFERENCES

1. Rule 6A-14.030 Instruction and Awards in Florida College System Institution
<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=6A-14.030>