

Committee on Educational Policy (CEP)

October 27, 2015

In attendance: Faculty: David S. Hall, chair; Alexander George; Caroline Goutte; Klára Móricz; Sean Redding. Catherine Epstein, dean. Students: Samuel Keaser '16, Rashid (Chico) Kosber '17; Steven Ryu '16. Recorder: Nancy Ratner, Associate Dean of Admission and Researcher for Academic Projects.

David Hall, Chair of the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), called to order the CEP meeting at 3:00 p.m. in the Physics and Astronomy Meeting Room (Merrill Science Center 222) and the committee approved the minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2015.

Updates

David reported on three issues. In a conversation with IT, he learned that the software development for the senior faculty course evaluations is continuing to move forward as expected. In consultation with the registrar, he was assured that there will be no impediment to the committee's plan to restrict the faculty's online access to student transcripts, providing it automatically only to current advisors. He will now recommend to the Committee of Six that the Registrar no longer provide automatic access through ACDATA to faculty to view the transcripts of students in their classes. He also spoke about the copyright proposal with Justin Smith and was reassured that the college lawyers do provide faculty and staff support for this policy. When faculty are confronted with references in the copyright policy that they will need to consult a lawyer before proceeding, the faculty will be able to contact the college lawyers for guidance.

Copyright policy

Returning to the previous week's discussion of the college copyright policy, the committee recommended that, rather than incorporating the copyright policy in the Faculty Handbook, the policy should instead be made available via a link that will appear in the Faculty Handbook. Chico suggested that there be a similar link placed in the Student Handbook since students also have to know about these issues.

Second round of course registration

Noting that, at the faculty meeting on November 3, 2015, the faculty will be discussing and voting on the committee's revised proposal to pilot a second round of course registration, David asked the committee to consider how best to explain the revisions to the original proposal. He noted that the changes to the proposal are very modest, affecting primarily those faculty who want to manage the timing of their decision to guarantee seats. Those faculty will now be able to designate their courses as "instructor permission" (IP), which will in turn allow them, if they wish, to delay their decisions about enrollment, a delay that could extend until add-drop. Once the instructor gives permission, however, the student will have a guaranteed seat. The committee has also made it simpler for faculty to make that change. Faculty who want to designate existing courses as IP will only need to send a letter to the committee with the rationale for the change and their priorities for allowing students to take the course if there is

an enrollment cap. The committee will retain a list of those courses and make the changes in CMS. Faculty designating new courses as IP will be able to do so when submitting the new course.

Turning to the remaining details, David said faculty members on leave will mostly be capable of trimming their course rosters, provided they have internet access. They will also have the option (also available now) of asking the registrar to trim their rosters for them. Faculty members desiring things to stay as they are now will have that option through the IP designation. Committee members acknowledged that April can be a busy time of year, but September is also a busy time of year. For those who prefer to delay the assessment of student submissions (for example, creative writing) to another time, the IP designation should provide sufficient flexibility.

Sam said that students are unanimously in favor of this. He offered to take a straw poll at the AAS meeting and report on the outcome at the faculty meeting. Summarizing the proposed changes, Caroline noted that the committee had identified a problem, proposed a solution, and, after hearing faculty concerns last spring, revised the proposal to ensure that faculty who wanted to determine the timing of their decisions would have the flexibility to do so. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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