

**Idaho State University
Academic Standards Council
Report of Activities, 2006-07
Brian Norman (English), Chair**

Purpose

Its purposes are to recommend university policy and procedures pertaining to academic standards for admission, progression, and the granting of degrees and certificates. Specific areas of concern include but are not restricted to: 1) advising, 2) academic standards, 3) scholastic appeals, 4) admission and progression requirements, 5) honors programs and societies, 6) advanced standing and placement, 7) evaluation of transfer policies, and 8) standards for award of ISU credit.

Members, 2006-07

John Beachboard, Business
Maureen Brandon, Dean's Representative, Arts & Sciences
Alan Egger, Academic Affairs
Alan Frantz (non-voting), Registration & Records
Bonnie Frantz, Student Affairs
JoAnn Hertz (non-voting), Enrollment Planning
April Itami, ASISU Representative
Diana Livingston Friedley, Arts & Sciences
Wendy Mickelsen, Health Professions
Brian Norman (Chair), Arts & Sciences
Randy Norton, Faculty Senate
Connie Patchin (non-voting), secretary
Roger Rankin (Vice Chair), Education
Dan Selvage, Pharmacy
Shane Slack, Technology
Joe Steiner, Dean's Representative, Professional College
Richard Wabrek, Engineering

I. Administrative

A. Academic Dishonesty Board and Scholastic Appeals Board

ASC appointed Wendy Mickelsen, past ASC Chair, to chair these two Boards. Each ASC member appointed two or more eligible faculty members for the faculty pools. One case was brought before the Academic Dishonesty Board in August 2006 (recommendation: expulsion); no case was brought before the Scholastic Appeals Board.

ASC expressed support of the general idea put forward by the Interim Vice President for Student Affairs that all records related to academic dishonesty will be housed in the Office of Student Affairs in order to ensure consistency and accuracy of individual

student records of academic dishonesty across individual units of the university. A specific proposal is forthcoming next year. ASC also recommended that next year the council revisit the academic dishonesty procedures and to add a reference to the handbook in the catalogue on this matter.

B. By-laws

Minor changes were made to the by-laws to clarify existing policy. In addition, ASC approved a policy change that allows a vote on a motion at the same meeting it is introduced. This will streamline the process since ASC meets only once per month.

II. Policy Recommendations (all passed by Faculty Senate)

A. Petition Time Limit

ASC recommended that petitions have a one-year time limit and must be re-filed after that time if they have not been approved.

B. Transcribing Fee

ASC approved the concept of a credit recording fee, a practice already in effect.

C. Fifty Credit Rule

After extensive discussion and various proposals declined or voted down, ASC recommended deletion of the Fifty Credit Rule. This is because the original intent of the rule is known, but probably relates to a desire for a broad education beyond a student's major area of study. ASC supports the idea of a balanced curriculum and feels that the general education requirements as currently written or practiced may not be sufficient (see related non-recommendation item). Nevertheless, the Fifty Credit rule is ill-defined, possibly redundant with General Education requirements, difficult to enforce (indeed, it has not been enforced for some years), and may unduly impede the Professional Colleges (especially the HRDT program in the College of Technology). No immediate changes will result from deleting the rule since it has not been enforced for some time.

D. Lower vs. Upper Division Transfer Credits

ASC passed a recommendation that transferred lower division credits do not count toward upper-division credit requirements for graduation.

E. Transfer Credit Limitations

ASC passed a recommendation to clarify State Board of Education policy that a maximum of 70 credits may be transferred to ISU.

F. Associates degrees requirements

ASC recommended the following item for next year's agenda: Clarify that all general education requirements for a BA must be met, including by those who earn an associates degree that does not include all general education requirements. General Education committee will also take up the issue.

III. Non-recommendation items

A. Credits attempted vs. withdrawal

In 2005-06 ASC noticed a possible glitch between *credits attempted* vs. *withdrawal* that may have consequences for GPA and its effect on financial aid eligibility and course enrollment. After discussion and research, ASC decided not to issue a related recommendation.

B. General Education requirements (post-Fifty Credit Rule discussion)

While the ASC voted to delete the Fifty Credit Rule because it is difficult to enforce and possibly redundant with General Education requirements, the ASC is in support of the spirit of the rule that ISU values a broad education outside a student's major field. ASC suggests that the General Education committee of Curriculum Council revisit the requirements to make sure that they fully address the desire to foster a broad liberal arts education at the core of 4 year BA degrees at ISU. This recommendation was forwarded to Maureen Brandon, the Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences and Chair of the General Education committee.

C. Jury Duty policy

ASC decided not to set a jury duty policy, preferring instead to let existing policies and practices relating to attendance cover that specific issue.

D. General Education Requirements for Associates Degree Transfer Students

ASC clarified an articulation agreement regarding transfer students with an A.A., A.S., or A.A.S. degree from an accredited Idaho institution has met the General Education requirements. This policy does not extend beyond the institutions in the original articulation agreement (this may have been happening in practice) and instead all other transfer students will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis concerning General Education requirements. (see also related Executive Council item on MOUs/articulation agreements).

E. Governance Report

At the request of the Faculty Senate Vice Chair and Chair of an ad hoc committee on governance, ASC clarified its purpose and purview, including over the Academic Dishonesty Board and Scholastic Appeals Board.

IV. Executive Council Items

A. Post-recommendation tracking form

In consultation with the Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate secretary, Academic Standards Council proposed a routing form for policy recommendations from any council in order to track the fate of any recommendations until they became policy via the Provost's office or if they were rejected at any stage. This is now in effect. This tracking mechanism is important because past recommendations were occasionally not adopted with out explanation or not enforced after the appropriate administrator approved them.

B. MOU/Articulation Agreements

ASC recommended to the Executive Council that someone with an eye toward general education requirements and policies review all MOUs and articulation agreements, since some existing articulation agreements may inadvertently waive general education requirements. The Provost will take this into account.

Accepted by Faculty Senate: May 10, 2007