

Idaho State University
Academic Standards Council
Minutes

October 31, 2007

3:00 PM

Faculty Senate Conference Room

Rendezvous Building, Room 301

In Attendance: A. Frantz, B. Frantz, Livingston Friedley (Chair), Johnson, Krumwiede, McKenzie, Norman, Rankin, Selvage (late), Steiner
Excused: Adkison, Mickelsen
Absent: Slack, Wabrek
Non-voting: Hertz, Wallace (Recording Secretary)
Guest: Barbara Bishop

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Livingston Friedley opened the meeting and members introduced themselves.

2. **Minutes from August 29, 2007**

ACTION: Moved by Rankin and seconded by Steiner **to approve** the minutes from August 29, 2007. **Passed** unanimously.

3. **Announcements**

a. Yearly Council Reports

Faculty Senate Advisory Council wants all Councils to submit an Annual Summary Report at the end of each academic year. Norman, as Past-Chair, has already done so for 2006-2007. Livingston Friedley will write report for this year after the last Academic Standards Council meeting in Spring and will circulate it for members' approval shortly thereafter.

b. Updating Bylaws (Chapter 3, A; Chapter 4, D)

The Bylaw changes that were approved last year have not yet been incorporated into the Bylaws. **Livingston Friedley will go through the Bylaws and make those changes.**

4. **Old Business**

a. Academic Dishonesty and Scholastic Appeals Boards

Faculty member volunteers are still needed for these Board pools. Council members were urged to solicit volunteers from their constituents and forward names to Livingston Friedley.

b. Alan Frantz – former Registrar

1. **Academic Renewal Policy revision**

Last year as Registrar, Alan Frantz had submitted a request for clarifying language in the Undergraduate Catalog. The relevant passage was on page 42 of the new 2007-2008 catalog under **Academic Renewal Item #9**: “Students should be aware that this policy MIGHT NOT BE ACCEPTED at transfer institutions.”

Frantz proposed adding: “*Academic Renewal granted elsewhere is not transferrable to Idaho State University. Students who transfer to ISU with academic renewal already granted by another institution must petition for renewal once they meet the ISU conditions.*”

The concern was that ISU does not have a policy in force, and there have been a couple of questionable cases of renewal, at least one of which apparently simply deleted some poor grades to raise the GPA. Frantz wants to maintain adequately rigorous standards in the policies governing academic renewal. Norman suggested deleting the second sentence “Students who transfer to ISU...” However, that does not let students know they can petition

for renewal, so that idea was scratched by the Council. Inserting the word “*automatically*” before “*be accepted at transfer institutions*” poses the problem as to when such a transfer might happen.

Frantz suggested leaving out the word “*automatically*”, keep the sentence as-is and add “... ; *ISU conditions must be met.*”

ACTION: Norman moved to **approve the proposed changes** (in italics below) to **Academic Renewal Item #9** on page 42 of the 2007-2008 Undergraduate Catalog: “*Students should be aware that this policy MIGHT NOT BE ACCEPTED at transfer institutions. Academic Renewal granted elsewhere is not transferrable to Idaho State University; ISU conditions must be met.*” Seconded by Johnson. **Passed** unanimously.

2. Associate Degrees and Certificates revision

Currently an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree does not meet the General Education requirements for a Bachelor of Arts Degree because the B.A. requires more goals to graduate. Thus, an A.S. in Biology does not translate into a B.A. in Biology. Frantz advocates clarifying the policy as stated in the 2007-2008 Undergraduate Catalog (pp. 35-36), because it does not mention this problem. This has caused some difficulties for some students who were expecting to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree and were told they had to take more classes in order to qualify. In addition, it is a loophole for B.A. candidates to graduate without completing all General Education requirements, and the loophole should be closed.

Frantz proposed the following, with the new wording italicized:

“All academic Associate Degrees require a minimum of 64 credits. Other requirements differ among the Colleges and departments. The General Education requirements for the following degrees and certificates are found under the designated college or department. *Please note that the Associate of Science degree mirrors the Bachelor of Science degree in regard to General Education Requirements for ISU degrees, and therefore completes Bachelor’s degree requirements at ISU only for the B.S., B.A.T., and the B.U.S. Requirements for all bachelor’s degrees are listed directly prior to this section.*”

Johnson suggested **removing** “*mirrors the Bachelor of Science degree ... and therefore*” for conciseness. It was suggested to underline “*only*” in order to make it stand out. Several additional suggestions were made, but none were satisfactory. Frantz reiterated that the problem lies with the Bachelor of Arts degree. Page 36 needs to be addressed as well, under the **Second Associate Degree** heading.

Livingston Friedley **asked Frantz to rewrite the language** for consideration in the next Council meeting.

5. New Business

a. Brian Norman (Alan Frantz) – Early College Program

1. **Guest presenter: Barbara Bishop, Enrollment Coordinator, Early College Program**

Bishop thanked the Council for the opportunity to discuss the Early College Program. She had attended the National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnership (NACEP) conference. There is some confusion about terminology (Concurrent Enrollment, Dual Enrollment, Dual Credit), but it all relates to students taking college courses and earning college credits while still in high school. ISU has students taking distance-learning and on-campus classes. There is an ISU website with information about the program [<http://earlycollege.isu.edu/>].

Dr. Wharton spoke to the Faculty Senate about the program during a recent Senate meeting. Some Senators were concerned about the focus being on “cheap education”. The high school students are charged \$65 per credit, instead of the usual \$221 per credit. But it also helps with increasing enrollment and retention. The biggest bonus from Bishop’s perspective is that the high school students experience what college is like so they know what

to expect when they graduate and start attending as regular college students. There is a lot more reading and writing required in college than in high school, and the students come to understand that. There is a new brochure in the works about the Early College Program. ISU's focus is on Goal Courses, with a few electives offered as well. A problem arises when students take a lot of electives instead of required classes, because there are financial aid ramifications. This and other potential problems will be clarified in writing in the new brochure.

Livingston Friedley reminded that the Faculty Senate website has some articles about the program posted under "Current Issues". She asked Norman to summarize the Faculty Senate's discussion about the Early College Program. Norman had prepared a handout incorporating Senators' concerns and the issues the Council was asked to address. Norman stressed that ASC is only concerned with the academic standards portions of this much larger issue.

- Are the program's course offerings truly equivalent to the regular ISU sections of those courses?
- What policies should be in place to govern the quality of the courses to make sure they meet ISU's overall campus-wide standards, especially since most of the courses are run by individual Departments?
- What procedures are needed to ensure the policies are enforced?

Johnson asked who teaches the classes and how are they selected? Bishop described the on-line application and process for submitting it to her. The Chair of the particular Department is consulted and involved in setting up each class offered. Textbooks can sometimes be a problem, and there can be occasional difficulties in finding teachers with the appropriate academic qualifications in some subjects. A Master's degree in the discipline is optimal, but the Northwest Association does not specifically require the Master's be in the field. The Memorandum of Understanding that ISU signed with Region 5 has an appeal process regarding the educational requirement issue, but so far has not been needed. At this point, the decision is up to the particular Department. Norman reminded that FPPC has purview over policies regarding faculty requirements.

Livingston Friedley said the National Alliance Concurrent Enrollment Program (NACEP) website listed ISU as provisionally accredited. She asked Bishop what steps are being taken to become fully accredited and are faculty involved in that. Bishop answered nationwide there are 26 institutions that have gone through accreditation. ISU has fulfilled a lot of the requirements, but still needs to conduct surveys of participating students in various stages of their academic career, including one 5 years after completing the program. Course evaluations are another component being addressed. Little hard data are yet available on students' success or difficulties as they go on through the next levels of course sequences. It is hard to compare participating students with their non-participating peers because their levels of motivation, determination, and other factors are hard to quantify.

Livingston Friedley suggested **tabling** this issue until next meeting. Meanwhile the Council members should think of ways ASC might be able to help.

6. Adjournment: 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Wallace
Administrative Assistant 1
Faculty Senate Office

Approved by Academic Standards Council: November 28, 2007

Approved by Faculty Senate: December 3, 2007