

Idaho State University
Academic Standards Council
Minutes

Wednesday, November 28, 2007

3:00 PM

Faculty Senate Conference Room

Rendezvous Building, Room 301

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

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Livingston Friedley opened the meeting.

2. **Minutes from October 31, 2007**

A few minor points of clarification and corrections to the minutes were mentioned.

ACTION: Moved by Norman and seconded by Adkison **to approve** the minutes from October 31, 2007 **with corrections. Passed** unanimously.

3. **Announcements**

a. Faculty Senate Advisory Council update

President Vailas asked for information from the Council Chairs about important activities that ISU's Faculty, Councils and other such entities have accomplished or are working on so that he can inform the other Idaho University Presidents and the State Board of Education during the upcoming SBOE meeting to be held at ISU on December 6, 2007.

Livingston Friedley relayed to Dr. Vailas and the Advisory Council that Academic Standards Council is looking for ways to help Barbara Bishop promote the Early College Program and tighten up the academic issues and policies that have come up in discussion.

4. **Unfinished Business**

a. Alan Frantz – Associate Degrees and Certificates revision

Alan Frantz incorporated the discussion from last time into his proposed changes to the Associate Degrees policy as stated on page 35 in the Undergraduate catalog. In response to Steiner's question, Frantz clarified that this policy would apply to all B.S. (Bachelor of Science) degrees offered on campus because they all have the same choices of goal classes. It was suggested to add the new B.A.S. degree, since it is different than the B.A.T. degree. There was some discussion whether the last sentence was necessary, but the prevailing argument was that students and advisors need as much clarity as possible. It is easier for this Council to change the wording of the policy now than for other university entities to do it later in the process.

ACTION: Moved by Adkison and seconded by Slack **to accept the wording change** in the Associate Degrees policy with the B.A.S. degree added. The **motion carried** unanimously. It will be forwarded to Faculty Senate for their consideration.

b. Early College Program

Livingston Friedley commended Barbara Bishop for her efforts in creating the handout about the program. Barbara will welcome any assistance faculty members can give her. Handouts of the Department of Foreign Languages Policy on Concurrent Enrollment Adjuncts, of the Department of Political Science Early College Instructor Qualifications and the Early College Program information printed from ISU's website were passed out to Council members. So far those are the only policies that exist regarding this program. The Council needs to decide its level of involvement. Norman had also prepared a handout summarizing the Faculty Senate's charge to the Council regarding Concurrent Enrollment, along with his own questions and suggestions for the Council's consideration.

Adkison mentioned there were two more Memo of Understandings (MOUs) recently signed with the League of Schools from Regions 5 and 6. He will send the entire MOUs to Livingston-Friedley. The standards of qualified faculty are set by Northwest, ISU's regional accrediting body. Qualified faculty are articulated by the State Board of Education; a Master's degree in a relevant field is required. The actual implementation by individual Colleges and Departments is where the variation occurs. ASC can help set umbrella policies by making recommendations regarding oversight, support and development issues without interfering with the decisions made by individual Deans and Departments. The ECP courses must be substantively the same as those courses offered on campus, else ISU loses its accreditation. ASC can help set policies for integration and assessment measures to ensure they really are the same. NACEP's provisional accreditation of ISU is based on ISU's expressed interest in the program rather than based on actual outcomes. Adkison estimated \$17,000 investment and 40 hours of work would establish full accreditation with NACEP.

Norman brought up that university-level threshold standards should be part of the University policies regarding this program. Departmental input should be obtained in developing those threshold standards. Adkison mentioned the State Board of Education and Idaho State Legislature want the Early College Program to be implemented by Idaho institutions. It behooves ISU to make sure to protect its regional accreditation and its interests as the program is integrated into the curriculum. ISU needs to show that ECP students meet the same standards and outcomes as on-campus students.

Discussion ensued, centering on accreditation information already available from Departments and from the catalog: how to gather, assimilate and compile the data into a useful format for developing general policies and procedures for assessing program courses, ensuring quality and measuring outcomes on Department levels. Departments and Faculty should be asked for their input. Adkison suggested it would be helpful if the Council aim to provide answers to the questions in Brian Norman's handout.

There was some question whether high school Tech Prep students get academic Early Credit for completing year-long electronic courses. After more discussion, it was determined not to be considered academic credit in the same way as the ECP courses; it is classified as technical credit.

Livingston-Friedley asked Adkison to **draft a questionnaire** for Departments and Faculty. He will consult with Barbara Adamcik as to what she will need for the accreditation side of this issue. Most of the current students in the ECP are honors students; this will likely change with the State Board of Education's intention to expand the program to more high school students. The teachers will be ISU adjunct faculty, and the final exams will be the same as those taken by regular ISU students. There was some concern that Departments may not be able to adequately supervise the off-campus adjunct faculty and course curriculum. Some mechanisms need to be devised to ensure adequate reporting and evaluation.

Norman suggested checking the Undergraduate Catalog description of the Early College Program to make sure it is accurate and sufficiently clear. **Livingston Friedley will look into the necessity of rewording the catalog description for next time.** Hertz agreed to

compile a list of questions regarding the actual college experiences, performance and persistence of ISU's current ECP students as they progress through their academic careers.

Norman announced he is going on sabbatical next semester, so will be leaving the Council. He has nominated **Susan Swetnam** as his replacement; Faculty Senate will vote on her appointment in their next meeting.

The next Academic Standards Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.** Subsequent meetings will be February 27 and April 30, 2008.

6. Adjournment: 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Wallace
Administrative Assistant 1
Faculty Senate Office

Approved by Academic Standards Council: January 30, 2008
Accepted by Faculty Senate: February 11, 2008