

## **Academic Standards Council**

Official Minutes for Friday, 19 January 2024, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

HyFlex meeting: Administration Building room AA 102, ZOOM

In Attendance: Curtis Whitaker, Carrie Bottenberg, Tim Leishman, Robin Lindbeck

By ZOOM: Susan Belliston, Jen Adams

Absent: Alex Rose

Ex Officio: Jesse Call-Feit, Janna Graham, Aaron Todd

Guests: Nicole Joseph, Patrick Rault

Recording Secretary: Lisa Hunt

### **1. Transcript Policy for Applicants Who Are Former ISU Students**

Nicole Joseph, Director of Admissions and Recruitment at ISU, discussed the change she and Hala Abou Arraj, ISU Registrar, are proposing to the current policy on transcript submissions for former students returning to ISU. ASC discussed the existing policy and the new proposed language change.

- Current policy: students must resubmit all official transcripts from any college attended prior to enrolling at Idaho State University if the transcript is older than three years.
- Suggested revision: resubmit all official transcripts from any college or university attended at the time of admission to Idaho State University if the transcript is five years or older at the time of application.

**ACTION** - Robin Lindbeck motioned to accept new language to the Transcript Policy; Carrie Bottenberg seconded.

Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

In other transcript-related matters, ASC discussed the availability of transcripts now possible in ISU's Navigate system. Aaron Todd alerted ASC to this capability in the November meeting, and some members have begun using it. Student transcripts are a key tool for faculty as they advise students in their classes, especially those at the 1000 level. It is hoped that faculty transcript access will help in the retention of ISU students with improved advising.

ASC also discussed plans to make available to faculty instructional videos on FERPA to make sure transcripts are used properly when accessed.

### **2. Vertical Credits**

Curt Whitaker gave an update on the proposal from the Department of Global Studies and Languages to allow vertical credits at ISU.

**Pricing:**

--Jen Steele, VP of Finance, estimated that twenty minutes of staff time in the Registrar's Office to process a request for vertical credits would cost about \$20, which is what ASC had previously estimated.

**Necessary grades:**

--Jasun Carr asked that the minimum grade for a 2000-level course that would include vertical credits be kept at B-. This was also the consensus among the foreign language faculty.

--A minimum grade in the B range will motivate students to perform better at the 2000-level than a C would.

**Course Labeling:**

ASC also discussed the "Heritage Spanish" course label. This decision is up to the Global Studies faculty, not ASC, but Whitaker reported from his conversation with Jasun Carr that the term is succinct and will work well in the class schedule; it is also widely used at other U.S. institutions.

**Gen Eds:**

The impact of vertical credits on Gen Eds is still being looked into. GERC is currently discussing this subject, and ASC will address it at the next meeting

**Setting a precedent:**

--Vertical credits can be applied to Math at U of Idaho.

--If accepted at ISU, vertical credits could eventually affect other college programs besides foreign languages.

--ASC also discussed pros and cons of PLAs (prior learning assessment), Challenge Exam (expense is 1/3 of the credit cost) and CLEP (\$150 per exam) versus vertical credits.

### **3. Unique Content and a Second Degree/Major**

Patrick Rault, Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, spoke with ASC about a proposed change to the catalog policy regarding students who earn two degrees/majors concurrently.

The goal here is to ensure that credentials have separate, individual value and are not just duplications of one another. Current policy only applies to degrees and certificates; now there is a question of applying unique content to double majors and minors. It is proposed that a minimal number of credits (not determined yet) be earned that do not overlap with any other degree and/or major. The policy language needs to be clarified, with care taken in wording the

revision. Policy on unique content in majors could potentially impact programs in the Colleges of Business, Education, Health Sciences, COSE, and CAL.

Adjournment: 2:53p