Academic Standards Council
Official Minutes for Friday, 17 November 2023, 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: Alex Rose
Absent: Susan Belliston, Jen Adams
Ex Officio: Hala Abou Arraj, Jesse Call-Feit, Jana Graham, Aaron Todd
Administrative Assistant: Lisa Hunt

1. Vertical Credits
Jasun Carr, Chair of the Department of Global Studies and Languages, sent ASC a list of ISU's peer institutions' policies on vertical (also known as retroactive) credits. Of the ten peer institutions, four allow vertical credits. ASC discussed whether this type of credit could be instituted for the Global Studies and Languages department.

   a.) ASC discussed the parameters for allowing vertical credits:

   1) Discussion of whether a fee should be charged for vertical credits and how much
        a. PLA (prior learning assessment) credits do not have a fee
        b. Some institutions charge an application/administrative fee for this kind of credit, but others do not
   2) Discussion of resident credits stipulation – vertical credits at ISU would be available to students only after completing qualifying courses at ISU.
   3) The prospective course in Global Studies on heritage Spanish will probably be titled in such a way as to attract students with a Spanish-speaking family background.
   4) Gen Ed credits – GERC has never allowed a course to be listed in two Gen Ed objective categories concurrently, as may happen with vertical credits. Curt Whitaker will consult with GERC on this matter and report back to ASC.
   5) Discussion of a minimum grade requirement to earn vertical credit
        a. At other institutions minimum grades range between B and C.
        b. In his proposal, Jasun Carr requested that the minimum grade for eligibility for vertical credits be a B-.

2. Transcript Access

ASC discussed the question of faculty having access to transcripts for students enrolled in their classes; such access would be a significant aid to faculty in advising students who may be struggling, especially at the 1000 level. Aaron Todd reported that although the feature is little known, the new Navigation system at ISU already provides this access. Todd encouraged ASC to let their constituents know about this helpful new feature.

In a related discussion, ASC also considered FERPA training for faculty and how it would be advisable not just for faculty viewing transcripts but in other situations as well.

3. Update on Academic Integrity Council and Question of AI

As discussed in ASC's September meeting, the Academic Integrity Council (AIC) is now available to faculty and students. The AIC emphasizes the need for faculty to be especially aware of the possible presence of AI in student work and state clearly on course syllabi their policy on AI, as students are encountering a spectrum of attitudes toward it among their instructors.

In early November CAL held a forum to discuss AI with students and faculty. Students reported that most of them do not know what is permitted or not in individual classes regarding AI; explicit syllabi statements on AI would be very helpful to students and are thus highly recommended. ISU's AIC website provides dozens of examples of such syllabus statements that faculty can refer to.

ASC also discussed practical steps faculty can take to manage AI content in student work. These include the following:
--request that students include some aspect of their own personal experience in an assignment
--require occasional in-class assessments that are written by hand, as with bluebooks or greenbooks
--employ a portfolio writing system, as with Google Docs, in which student work is "humanmarked" (modeled after "watermarked"), showing the student's process in creating a final document
--employ AI detection platforms such as Turnitin and GPTZero

Adjournment: 3:25p