

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Vol. 57, Meeting No. 1
Tuesday, September 15, 2020
Via Microsoft Teams

Present: *Members:* Travis DuChene, Abby Hemmerich, Mary Hoffman, Bob Hooper, Marquell Johnson, Carol Koroghlanian, Bill Miller, Kati Schaller, Jamie Tester Morfoot, Evan Weiher
Guests: Margaret Cassidy, Staci Heidtke, Deb Jansen, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Benita Wagner

Presiding: Chair Marquell Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from May 12, 2020

- Motion to approve the minutes of May 12, 2020, as distributed. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously (8-0-0).

2. Introduction of committee members and selection of chair

- Marquell agreed to serve as committee chair for the 20-21 AY

3. Academic programs under review for 2020/21 and discuss possible completion timelines

- a) Department of Special Education & Inclusive Practices
- b) Department of Education Studies
- c) Department of Biology
 - Will be ready for APC's review in late February, complete in April
 - Program review documents will be available electronically for APC members on the SharePoint site

4. Suspension of service-learning requirements for academic year 2020-2021 (Discussion)

- Issue was initially brought to CoEHS during the summer. Agencies/districts were not allowing visitors. Instructors teaching courses with the service-learning (SL) attribute assigned wanted to know if SL would still be required, were wanting to effectively plan and seek alternative opportunities for their students if needed. Students enrolled in these courses automatically fulfill the SL requirement. Will create inequity between students enrolled in SL-embedded courses vs. those struggling to complete a non-credit SL project.
- As SL coordinator, Benita works with all non-credit SL projects (roughly 40%). Currently, 143 students who haven't completed the requirement yet and plenty of opportunities within the community (114 project proposals, many of which utilize multiple students). Students who have been open to fulfilling the requirement; she hasn't heard from any opposed. Can get creative, e.g., instead of offering an in-person community fitness class, students can create a video; many opportunities utilizing social media, including web site creation or redevelopment, tutoring, research. Anything that "meets the needs of the community" will fulfill the requirement. She will also work with students enrolled in SL-embedded courses.
- Concern about the added stress for students, e.g., non-trads who are often married, working, attending the University, have childcare obligations, and are already concerned with their capacity to continue in school. Other students are upset over SL projects that had been planned a year in advance and were canceled this summer. Students are on edge and fragile already with the ongoing stress.

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- Agree with the equity issue. If someone is enrolled in an SL-embedded course, how fair is it to those who aren't in a class and do not get the credit?
- See how this semester goes, it's an added stress for a lot of students, we can help students avoid the extra stress.
- SL is no different of a requirement than others, it's an add-on, would do a disservice if we waive it, immediate concern has been handled, it's in the LE core and we need to be cautious how we approach it.
- Also concerned about equity and the students enrolled in SL-embedded courses receiving credit without completing SL, it's not fair. If students in these courses are now told they need to complete a SL project, are there enough opportunities?
 - There are 143 students who still need to fulfill the requirement to graduate and 114 projects available. Would recommend instructors of these courses reach out to their community partner to see if there's something else students can do to benefit their organization (not in-person).
- Part of SL is to serve community partners, don't want to spread disease. Keep in mind the impact on students who are sick and need to isolate/quarantine. This semester is different. Need to protect the community as well.
- Education is working with 50-70 school placements this semester and they all have different guidelines on how they want student teachers to operate, there's a lot of variation, requiring additional discussions with others beyond the norm (superintendents).
- Extremely high amount of stress for students right now, students aren't sure what to expect, shouldn't be asked to try to complete SL on top of everything else going on, this isn't normal, a lot of students don't feel like they can really go out into the community now.
- Leaning toward being lenient, students are already stressed, should not be another stressor.
- Keep in mind that we are discussing the students graduating this semester who haven't fulfilled their SL requirement yet.
- Faculty know things are completely different, e.g., running twice as many labs because they can only be half-capacity, students are stressed, SL should be waived for the fall semester until everyone is able to get into a new norm.

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting