

Minutes – All University Committee Policies – Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2019

3:30 pm

Miller Oval

Present:

Dr. Walter Jeffko
Dr. Kyle Moody
Dr. Ozge Ozay
Dr. Daneen Deptula
Dr. Billy Samulak
Dr. Robert Carr
Dr. Connie Strittmatter
Dr. Ruth M. Joseph
Dr. Daniel Welsh
Dr. Mary Ann Barbato
Dr. Gerry Higdon
Dr. Laurie Link
Dr. Bruno Hicks
Dr. Zachary Miner (late: 4:05 pm)

Motion to consider minutes

Billy Samulak
Second Daniel Welsh

Motion carries 13 – 0 – 0

Minutes of February 26, 2019 were approved

AUC 136

Motion considered by Ruth M. Joseph

Seconded by Bruno Hicks

Provost Dr. Alberto Cardelle spoke to the committee. Proposal to approve these five strategic planning committees.

This proposal seeks to create the following committees as part of the upcoming strategic planning process to be used in 2019-2020. The committees will, with input from university constituents, prepare the strategic plan that will be presented to the Board of Trustees for their

approval. The following committees shall be established in accordance with the terms of the MSCA agreement.

Discussion of the proposal started at 3:36 pm.

Dr. Jeffko asked if the committee names were represented on the proposal. Dr. Cardelle responded that these committees were described through their names/titles. Dr. Carr asked if the committee had considered the phrase “anchor institution” found within the description of the last committee had been seen as a problem.

Dr. Cardelle stated that they were not seen as superior or inferior.

Dr. Higdon stated that the names of the committees were inappropriate. Dr. Higdon also pointed out that the committees did not have the amount of members. Dr. Cardelle pointed out that he was carrying over the language from the previous year’s application.

Dr. Higdon pointed out that he would have changed it. Dr. Samulak asked if anybody had read the minutes to the AUC Curriculum Committee to note their findings from the meeting. Dr. Cardelle pointed out that they were not available due to the meeting having occurred the day prior, and that the proposals were passed through that committee.

Dr. Higdon stated that the committee titles were too vague and broad. Dr. Samulak asked if the committee titles could be written as “Name: Description.” Dr. Cardelle stated that we could propose amendments.

Dr. Carr stated that the previous committee work had highlighted the specificity of the committee.

Dr. Joseph asked what the purpose of the committees were.

Dr. Higdon asked what the purpose of the “Steward” was. Dr. Cardelle stated that this emerged from Boards of Higher Education, how the relationship between the university and the city of Fitchburg was developed and would continue to develop.

Dr. Cardelle stated that the committees would have a kickoff period lead by a facilitator.

Voting on the matter

Approve 11 approved – 0 nays – 2 abstentions

Motion carries

Motion to consider AUC 142

Laurie Link motions

Billy Samulak – Seconded

The university required GPA for graduation is a 2.0, and there are programs that require internships but do not have minimum GPAs. It is an inconsistency highlighted by the BHE. This policy change does not preclude individual departments from having a higher GPA for placement.

The rationale is to make the university-wide policy of a 2.0 GPA required for the university, and that departments with a higher minimum GPA for internship will not be inconvenienced.

Dr. Carr asked whether this would actually benefit the university. Do we really get stronger as a university from this?

Dr. Cardelle replied that deans receive many petitions as a result of the existing 2.5 GPA requirement, which means that more students will be able to graduate, and that this would give every department flexibility.

Dr. Joseph stated that the Education department is represented by their students. She asked what it would represent to the community regarding these standards. Dr. Cardelle stated that this represented a contradiction that they could find a job but not graduate.

Dr. Higdon asked Dr. Carr about the Communications Media requirement of 2.5 GPA for internships. Dr. Carr stated that the 2.5 GPA represents a professional standard for the department. Dr. Carr referred to Dr. Moody, who responded in the affirmative.

Dr. Joseph stated that they have a 2.75 GPA requirement in Education for internship.

Dr. Higdon stated that this would potentially force Communications Media to lower their standards.

Dr. Hicks stated that the professional level was a requirement for high quality licensing programs, and therefore programs should maintain their own departmental standards. He mentioned that departments also provided scaffolding for different levels and students.

Dr. Cardelle stated that the university would never force departments to lower their standards. He brought up the example of Nursing, stating that the university stood behind Nursing's existing GPA standards for graduation when they were challenged.

Dr. Samulak brought up whether B&C would be in trouble due to inconsistencies, and Dr. Cardelle stated that this was not the case.

Dr. Welsh asked whether this would force students to change majors due to program standards.

Dr. Barbato stated that this only affected internships, not field studies. Dr. Welsh stated that internships required excellence, and that students should show extra ability and standards.

Dr. Samulak respectfully disagreed. She stated that it was a path for university students to graduate.

Dr. Carr stated that field studies would not have those same requirements.

Dr. Higdon stated that internships represent the values and professional ability of the students, and therefore the requirements should be higher to reflect the abilities.

Dr. Carr and Dr. Cardelle discussed the differences between field studies in Sciences versus Communications Media, as field studies in Communications Media are closer to “mini-internships” and professional development, while the Sciences often reflect field studies differently.

Dr. Hicks stated that he was in favor of the 2.0 GPA because of the existing scaffolding provided by departments.

Dr. Welsh pointed out that while students were in school, students would need more classroom training.

Dr. Deptula asked if this proposal was purposefully going to give students everywhere a chance to gain an internship, and that it gives students a chance to graduate.

Dr. Cardelle stated that now those students must go to a Dean to receive credit and approval if they don't meet the requirements. Dr. Cardelle also stated that there would be no expectations for a department to change their existing GPA standards for internships.

Voting

10 approved – 3 nays – 1 abstention.

Motion carries

Billy Samulak – motion to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:09 pm