

Curric Affairs Committee 11 Febr 2013 MINUTES 9-10 am Reichardt 301

Voting Members present: Rainer Newberry, Chair; Ken Abramowicz; Retchenda George-Bettisworth (phone); Karen Gustafson; Cindy Hardy (phone); Sarah Hardy (phone); David Henry; Todd Radenbaugh (phone). Absent: Diane McEachern

Non-voting members: Donald Crocker (phone); Libby Eddy; Lillian Misel; Carol Gering (phone); Alex Fitts.
Absent: Doug Goering.

- 1. APPROVE MINUTES OF 28 Jan**
- 2. Report on GERC from Cindy Hardy**
- 3. OLD BUSINESS**

A. C-/C business

Motion: The minimum acceptable grade that baccalaureate students may receive in courses in the major, the minor, core, and courses used as prerequisites shall be a C-.

Justification: consistency

1. With the past. Before \pm grades a 'C-' was acceptable because a 'C-' was simply a version of C
2. With faculty who do not use +/- grades. A student who receives a 'C-' from a faculty member who does not use \pm is ok because that grade gets recorded as a 'C'. Same course, different teacher, this one does use \pm and the grade is not acceptable.
3. With BOR policies. BOR defines a C as an acceptable grade. Clearly a 'C-', which is a version of C, also should be acceptable.
4. With transfer policies: a course with a grade of C- transfers. However, currently it only transfers as 'credit' for a course in one's major or minor. In order to satisfy the requirement for the major or minor the course would need to be re-taken and a grade of C or higher received.
5. A grade of C- is the minimum acceptable for a 'core' course. This is confusing for students, who recognize that sometimes a C- is good enough, and sometimes not.
6. Many faculty have privately told or emailed me that that they give grades of D+, D, D-, A+, A-, A, B+....but never C- because it means the student will need to re-take the course. They would award the grade that the student actually deserved (C-) if such a grade didn't require re-taking the course. Why not be honest???? Given this phenomena, allowing C- to 'count' would result in grade deflation.

Note that the proposed change wouldn't change the fact that a student's overall gpa and gpa in the major must be a minimum of 2.0.

After considerable and heated discussion, this motion passed

B. Grading System and Grade Point Average Computation --current

"All course grades are letter grades unless otherwise specified in the class schedule. The method of grading (letter or pass/fail) is an integral part of the course structure and is included in the course description. Instructors are expected to state their grading policies in writing at the beginning of each course. Grades appearing on academic records are:

A An honor grade, indicates originality and independent work, a thorough mastery of the subject and the satisfactory completion of more work than is regularly required.

B Indicates outstanding ability above the average level of performance.

C Indicates a satisfactory or average level of performance.

D The lowest passing grade, indicates work of below-average quality and performance.

F Indicates failure. All F grades, including those earned in pass/fail courses, are included in the GPA calculations."

CHANGE TO?:

B Indicates an ability well above the minimum level of accomplishment

C Indicates a satisfactory level of accomplishment

D The lowest passing grade, indicates minimum level of accomplishment

AFTER HEATED DISCUSSION WE AGREED TO SEND THIS ON TO SADA FOR THEIR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

4. New Business

As part of the grades and grading controversy, we took up the question of whether acceptable grades for 'core' classes should be re-lowered from the current C- to the 'anything goes'. More heated discussion. SPLIT VOTE. Cindy agreed to take this to SADA and Rainer agreed to take it to Fac Senate Adcomm.