

ACADEMIC COUNCIL BOARD

September 24, 2024

Library Tiered Classroom

2:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Dr. Scott Tollison, Dr. Kim Whitehead, Dr. Marty Brock, Dr. Brian Anderson, Dr. Brandy Larmon, Amanda Clay Powers, Matthew Miles, Dr. David Brooking, Dr. Kendall Dunkelberg, Dr. Kristy Alpe, Shelby Wilson, Dr. Josh Dohmen, Shannon Lucius, Dr. Clear Moore, Trish Caston, Jessi Jobe, Nicole Patrick, Dr. Hope Durst, Erinn Holloway

Approval of the April 2024 Minutes – Amanda Clay Powers motioned to move the minutes as presented. Clear Moore seconded that motion and Academic Council approved the minutes as presented.

Introductions/Reminders – Before addressing the agenda items, Dr. Tollison initiated introductions as a group. Dr. Tollison reminded the Council about the importance of sharing with constituent groups and any ideas received from their groups should be brought back to the Council.

New Names for Academic Probation and Intermediate Students – Dr. Moore presented the Council with a document titled “Proposed Language Changes” that included the following: rationale, fast facts, an example from the University of California, an article from The Chronicle of Higher Education, and suggested Bulletin Language. Dr. Moore explained that many universities are revising the name “Academic Probation” to “Academic Notice” for students who are currently on probation status. The reason the Student Success Center is proposing the language change is to create a more positive connotation. Dr. Brooking motioned to approve the proposed language change of “Academic Probation” to “Academic Notice” and Dr. Anderson seconded the motion. Similarly, Dr. Moore explained that the Student Success Center would like to reword “Intermediate Students” to “Emerging Scholars” to enhance positivity and growth around the phrase. Knowing that the phrase “Emerging Scholars” could be utilized in other aspects at the University, Academic Council recommended we table the language change for “Intermediate Students”. Dr. Moore will provide more feedback and will report back to Academic Council.

First Gen Forward Annual Goals Overview – The First Gen Forward Team at MUW is required to submit two to three institutional goals centered around first-generation student success. This team is comprised of Dr. Moore, Dr. Whitehead, Jess Harpole, and Matthew Miles. Dr. Moore brought forward the three goals the team is proposing for discussion prior to submitting them in October. The goals have already been vetted by the First Gen Student Ambassadors. There were no suggestions for revisions to the goals.

Digitization of Forms – Dr. Tollison indicated that there was a request to digitize the Excused Absence Form and asked the Council if there were any additional paper forms that needed to be digitized. Shannon Lucius said the Undergraduate and Graduate Transfer Substitution Form were in the process of being digitized and combined into one single form. If there are any others, they can be emailed to Dr. Tollison.

Academic Quick Reference Guide – Dr. Anderson proposed the implementation of an Academic Quick Reference Guide that can be a single source for all employees at MUW, specifically recruiters and admissions personnel. Guides would consist of the following: table of contents, meta-majors, majors, minors, concentrations, etc. The guides would be one relatively short page for each program/concentration that highlights the program, gives career possibilities, lists contact information, and explains what the program is not to make sure the student is not asking for something the University does not offer. Recruiters can take these guides with them when they go to college fairs. Dr. Anderson noted that those who work in Welty Hall can have copies of the guides readily available for prospective students they might encounter on a daily basis. Dr. Anderson is going to create templates for Deans Council to review in October.

Catalog Policy:

- Date of Last Attendance

Dr. Tollison presented the proposed language for the Date of Last Attendance Catalog Policy. Dr. Dunkelberg made the point that students are removed from Canvas courses before the faculty are made aware that the students have dropped a class or withdrawn from the University. Because of this, faculty are unable to identify the last date of attendance and cannot determine a WF or a WP. Dr. Tollison is going to discuss with Aaron Brooks in ITS the possibility of leaving the students in the course but make them inactive. The faculty could assess the student's work and last date of attendance, but the student would not be able to continue to work. The Council had questions regarding the wording in the first two paragraphs of the proposed language. Dr. Tollison decided to table the Date of Last Attendance Catalog Policy and revisit during October's meeting.

Policy Statements:

- Zero Credit Hour Policy

The Zero Credit Hour Policy was approved to enter into the 60-day review process by Academic Council with edits to remove #3. Amanda Clay Powers motioned to enter into the 60-day review and Erinn Holloway seconded the motion.

- PS# 1202 Non-Credit Activity

The PS# 1202 Non-Credit Activity Policy was approved to enter into the 60-day review process by Academic Council with edits to make the last sentence in #1 read “These activities are designed for non-enrolled students and may take many forms but all will include teaching/learning experiences that will benefit the individual who pays the fee to participate.” Dr. Dunkelberg motioned to enter into the 60-day review and Matthew Miles seconded the motion.

- PS# 1303 Promotion of Faculty

The PS# 1303 Promotion of Faculty was approved to enter into the 60-day process by Academic Council with the edits as presented to #14. Dr. Anderson motioned to enter into the 60-day review and Dr. Alpe seconded the motion.

Announcements:

- Matthew Miles announced that the DEI Council Policy will be entered into the 60-day review process at next Friday’s Administrative Council Meeting. The DEI Council will be looking to make changes to the policy and will likely change its name. Dr. Tollison mentioned if Academic Council gets the Policy into the 60-day review process in October, we can have it finalized by December.
- Dr. Brooking announced that Fall 2024 Preview Day is set for October 3, 2024, and Arts and Sciences will also be hosting a group of high school students from Columbus High School next week. This is focused on Fine Arts (Music, Theatre, Art). Dr. Brooking also reminded the Council that all organized recruiting events need to be created in Slate. This would include programs such as Navigating Nursing, Culinary Discovery Day, etc. It was also announced that university-wide recruiting events, like Preview Days, will be hosted on Saturdays moving forward.
- Amanda Clay Powers announced two Banned Books events taking place this week (September 22-27, 2024). Starting tonight (September 24, 2024) at 5:00pm at the front entrance of campus, there will be a Banned Books walkthrough. At 4:00pm on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, Friendly City Books will be hosting a Banned Books Read-aloud that will feature *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls. Amanda Clay Powers also mentioned that there was a great turnout at the grand opening of the Fant Memorial Library’s Creator Studio.

Adjournment:

Following a motion by Dr. Scott Tollison and a second by Matthew Miles, the meeting was adjourned.