

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Senate Educational Policies Committee
September 30, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Present: Amy Aggelou, Bonnie Falcione, Zsuzsa Horvath, Kathleen Kelly, Mary Lou Leibold, Juan Manfredi, Helen Petracchi, Laurel Roberts, Alberta Sbragia

Marc Harding (*Guest*)

Excused: Cynthia Tananis

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Introductions: Committee members were introduced. Three new members are: Zsuzsa Horvath, Helen Petracchia and Mary Lou Leibold (ProTem).

SEPC Review: The SEPC mission statement and attendance policy was reviewed. Members were given a copy of the information as posted on the Senate website. Fall term meeting dates were also given: October 28th, November 25th, and December 16th. A request was made to begin the meetings at 3:30 PM rather than 3 PM.

Admissions & Financial Aid update:

Marc Hardin, Chief Enrollment Officer, attended the meeting to provide an update on the recent admissions data for the class entering in 2013. Applications continue to increase and the admitting class's profile is stronger than last year's. Mr. Harding's report covered the initiatives related to redesigning the work units within OAFA.

As well, the University is in the process of searching for a Director of Financial Aid. Part of the interview process will include an open forum for two finalists. The candidates have been asked to prepare remarks focused on the issue of student debt and affordability. There will be a twenty minute question and answer session following the remarks.

The open forums are scheduled for October 2nd and 3rd.

Goals & Priorities for 2013_14:

The committee will continue to explore the use of a 'Course Summary Form' as a way of addressing the request for more information about a specific class prior to course enrollment. A representative of the Registrar's office and CSSD will be contacted to meet with the committee and continue to determine the feasibility of creating the form and implementing its use.

Another issue the committee will discuss is the use of undergraduates as course assistants in UG classes.

Vice Provost updates:

Vice-Provost Manfredi:

The University has revised the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy. The new policy includes changes in the GPA requirement for undergraduates during year 1 and year 2; changes to the attempted credits (per program length); and guidelines for the yearly pace of completion. These standards must be met in order for the student to receive federal financial aid and certain

institutional funds. The full policy revisions can be found in the attachment [see *SAP Revised 9-27-13*].

Vice Provost Sbragia:

International updates:

- The University's has moved their China campus from Beijing to Shanghai.
- The International student cruise was successful.

The University is developing a comprehensive/centralized website that will be housed on the Office of Research site. This will provide an opportunity to list, in one place, all available university fellowship opportunities across disciplines. The website is slated to be up and running by November or December. Each department will be asked to provide a link to this website on their website's homepage

The Graduate Professional Student Government (GPSG) hosted its first University-wide orientation for incoming graduate and professional students.

The Office of the Provost is participating in a cross-campus (including schools of the Health Sciences) collaboration to assist graduate students in developing career plans.

The AAU Institutional Data Committee (IDC) has recommended the development of AAU-wide procedures for collecting data on education measures of program and institutional performance. The Office of the Provost will be organizing the implementation efforts to track the priority data measures. [*AAU Data Exchange handout distributed at meeting*]

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Attachments: *SAP Revised 2013*