

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Senate Educational Policies Committee
February 23, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Present: John Close, Bonnie Falcione, Kathy Kelly, Juan Manfredi, Jay Rajgopal, Nashaat Rizk, Alberta Sbragia, Alex Zimmerman, C.J. Stavrakos (guest of Mr. Zimmerman)

Excused: Amy Aggelou, Jessica Brand, Burhan Gharaibeh, Debbie Miller, Karen Zellars

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:33 PM. The minutes from the January, 2012 meeting were approved.

New Business:

1. New Business:

Student access to OMET evaluations: Mr. Zimmerman (UG representative to SEPC) presented the committee with benchmark data that he and his SGB colleague, Mr. Stavrakos, collected to determine how other institutions make teaching evaluations available to students. This issue comes from students requesting that course evaluations be made accessible *prior* to them registering for classes. Data was collected by contacting various institutions which included: Tulane, Maryland, CMU, Duke, Rutgers, Georgetown and Johns Hopkins. The summary of these schools' experiences was generally positive and in many cases there were incentives built in for students to complete the evaluations so they would have access to the information. The committee agreed that this was worth pursuing but would require careful study of the implications. As well, there would be different implications across the schools. Dr. Sbragia indicated she would discuss the issue with Dr. Andy Blair in his role as Vice-Provost for Faculty Affairs.

2. Vice Provost updates:

a. Dr. Manfredi provided an update on the progress of the Middle States Accreditation Self-Study. The Self-Study has been completed and copies were distributed to committee members. The document will be submitted by the beginning of March. The Accreditation visit will occur on the Pittsburgh campus April 11-14, 2012 and will include visits to the Bradford campus (April 9), Greensburg campus, and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit; the latter an example of an additional location as determined by Middle States. The focus of the self study is on MSCHE Standard 7 (Institutional Assessment) & Standard 14 (Assessment of Student Learning).

b. Dr. Sbragia reported on the upcoming Honors Convocation scheduled for Friday, February 24th. She also noted that additional information has been provided for the *International Graduate & Undergraduate Students* report. This report is a compilation of the university's enrolled international graduate and UG students as of October 2011. It also lists students and faculty who have (or had) received Fulbright Scholar awards. The goal is to have a better mechanism for tracking and describing the characteristics of international students and faculty at Pitt. Additionally, the reporting will provide a means for raising the visibility of Pitt's Fulbright awards and other awards for international study. Dr. Sbragia reminded the committee members to share the report with their respective units and to provide any updates/edits as needed.

3. Faculty Assembly Update:

John Close reported on the recent Faculty Assembly meeting. Several committee reports were given; minutes from the meeting can be found on the Senate website:

<http://www.pitt.edu/univsenate/faminutes.html>

4. ACIE Update:

Bonnie Falcione reported on the recent ACIE Council meeting. This included: a report is being prepared by the Faculty Best Practice Committee for submission to the ACIE Council re: the OMET pilot on-line evaluations; ACIE Award proposals will be reviewed by the Council members on Saturday, March 17th followed by recommendations for the awards at the ACIE Council meeting Tuesday, March 20th.

5. Old Business

Advanced Placement credit on Transcript: Dr. Kelly reported that an update is planned for the March SEPC meeting on the progress being made with adding Advanced Placement credit information to the transcript. Mr. Ralph Hertel has been invited to provide a report to the committee at this meeting.

Access to Course Syllabi: Mr. Zimmerman (UG representative to the SEPC) will report back to the SEPC committee after his discussion with Dr. John Twyning (Associate Dean, UG Studies) and the A&S Council.

6. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Falcione, PharmD, BCPS
SEPC Co-Chair