Minutes for the Academic Standards Committee

Date: October 20, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Location: 238A Harbert Engineering Center

Attendance: Xing Fang, Canstance Relihan, Wayne Alderman, Nadine P. Ellero, Margaret Ross, Brain Parr, and Xing Ping Hu.

The meeting was started about 2:05 pm with some background introduction on the first policy from Dr. Canstance Relihan. The committee members discussed proposed or possible changes on two polices, and the following are the summary of the discussions:

(1). In order to implement the 2013-2018 Auburn University Strategic Plan, the first policy discussed is “Repeat of Courses”. The current policy places no limits on the number of times a student who has earned a D/F in a courses may attempt to pass it. The information from Dr. Drew Clark and a spreadsheet showing examples of students who repeated a course 6 or 7 times are shared with the committee members.

(2). If a student failed a course or got D or F twice, it is necessary or better for the student to get permission for the student’s academic dean if the student wants to retake the course in the third time. The “W” or withdrawal grade does not count towards the repeat of courses. This policy change provides an opportunity for the student to think about or examine whether current major is suitable for the student. It provides an opportunity for the student’s academic dean to give necessary advice and guidance to the student. With adequate reasons, a student can get permission from the student’s academic dean to repeat the courses in the third time.

(3). The policy change promotes appropriate and better advising to a student for the student’s career path. The provost office provides trainings to professional advisers at Auburn University. There is a concern on inconsistent advising provided by different academic units. Some departments have designated academic advisers and some departments have different faculty members for student advising.

(4). It is suggested to add the following statement to proposed policy change after “….without written permission from the student’s academic dean.”

“The student is encouraged to seek career counseling from the Auburn University Career Center prior to meeting with the academic dean.”

Note: The Career Center has advisers who can access student’s academic record.

(5). There was a motion to accept the policy change with proposed addition. The motion was seconded and supported by all committee members who attended the meeting. Xing Fang stated that two committee members (Paula Peek and Taylor Prouty) sent an email before the meeting that indicated to support the policy change. Other two committee members (Amysue Reilly and Sabit Adanur) sent an email during the meeting that indicated to support the policy change also. Therefore, the motion was passed.

(6). The discussion of the second policy change is requested by Dr. Patricia Duffy, Chair, AU Senate, about the current “Cap” policy. Her email and the current “Cap” policy are shared with the committee members. Because of the words "good standing" in the second sentence of the first paragraph in the current policy, some academic units which do not have specific enrollment caps are not allowing students on academic warning to transfer into programs. When a student’s cumulative GPA is less than 2.0, the student is placed at academic warning, which is not “in good standing”.

(7). Based on the current policy, students currently enrolled but on academic warning are restricted from a large array of majors. It means that students cannot take courses from another major to explore whether another major is more suitable for them. The policy restricts students to take certain courses to improve their GPA and to not be able to explore another major. This creates unfavorable conditions for students to complete their college degrees.

(8). The practice using good standing or GPA ≥ 2.0 is fairly widespread on campus (involving primarily two colleges). When the Cap policy was developed several years ago, this issue was not thought about.

(9). Dr. Relihan proposed to change “in good standing” to “currently enrolled”, so that students who are eligible to take classes and pursue an Auburn degree (but who may be on Academic Warning because their GPA has fallen below 2.0) are still eligible to change majors.

(10). The current discussion and revision is related to university level “Cap” policy.

(11). There was a motion to accept the proposal to change “in good standing” to “currently enrolled” in the current “Cap” policy. The motion was seconded and supported by all committee members who attended the meeting. Xing Fang stated one committee member (Taylor Prouty) sent an email before the meeting that indicated to support the policy change. Other two committee members (Amysue Reilly and Sabit Adanur) sent an email during the meeting that indicated to support the policy change also. Therefore, the motion was passed.

(12). Lisa Kensler sent an email on October 21 and indicated to support both policy changes.

The meeting adjourned about 2:45 pm.