

MINUTES
Faculty Senate Academic Affairs
April 7, 2020, 3:00 pm

Present: Ignacio Ciampitti, Spencer Clark, Teresa Douthit, Todd Easton, Mark Linville, Jason Maseberg-Tomlinson, Carol Sevin, Scott Tanona, Phil Vardiman, and Don Von Bergen

Proxies: Kelli Almes

Absent: Alex Hornung and Michael McGlynn

Liaisons: Kelley Brundage, Shannon Castleberry, and Brian Niehoff

Guests: Dan Kuester

1. Easton called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

2. Extending A/Pass/Fail for Summer

Easton began with a couple of the new business items first since Brundage had limited time. The topic of A/Pass/Fail and letter grades were discussed and how this is impacting students. Concerns were shared about other institutions that may not yet accept a Pass grade if a student were to apply, such as for a law or professional health care degree. However, as time moves forward, adjustments are being considered nationally. It was pointed out that we're affording this to our students, but in one, two, or five years down the road, we will have those applying to K-State that will also have "pass" grades from the time frame this occurs. It's just something to consider. It was clarified the conversation today is only an internal one so that we can provide feedback and a recommendation for summer 2020 classes so everyone is on the same page.

Easton requested input from the committee about extending the A/Pass/Fail for the summer classes and whether that accommodation is needed.

It wasn't known yet how many courses for summer are going to be taught via distance that have never been taught in this way before. Also, it was asked what a student should do if they don't want an A/Pass/Fail grade. Brundage reported there are questions being added daily in the FAQs section on the Registrar's website, so they'll add this one and a clear response.

If things worsen as the semester continues and over the summer months we, as an institution, want to be lenient and have continued understanding. We want to operate under the assumption the situation will improve in time for summer, but should also be prepared and ready to change based upon the circumstances at that time.

In short, the committee's recommendation is to stick with normal grading in summer, but if circumstances deteriorate, then we could allow the A/Pass/Fail to be instituted.

Conversion of F's to No Credit:

Easton shared the second new business item for committee input and recommendation is whether F's may be converted to No Credit for this semester. Also discussed was a retro withdrawal. It was reported that Wichita State is going this direction. There are some bigger issues surrounding this, one specifically related to financial aid. Withdrawal or a retroactive withdrawal would may be a better approach in these circumstances. Brundage offered to reach out to Wichita State to see what their discussions are. Another point made was that it's been challenging to re-engage with some students and that withdrawing may be the better option to offer. An extension on withdrawal has been made through April 20th for students, but for this semester, due to current circumstances, that conversation can occur about withdrawing after that time as well. One of the FAQs on the Registrar's website also assists with this information.

Basic tone of committee members is to make things most successful for students. A best recommendation is for a student to continue as best they can, but withdraw if needed as that won't negatively damage the GPA. Easton thanked committee members and will share this information.

- The March 24, 2020 minutes were approved as submitted.

Course and Curriculum Proposals - Changes listed below were approved at the college or graduate level prior to this meeting unless otherwise indicated.

- Tabled expedited curriculum proposal:

To view full proposals, see the Curriculog Agenda: <https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:1000/form>

Arts and Sciences	Economics B.A./B.S.
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Easton moved and Von Bergen seconded to bring back this back the table. Motion carried. There was a question raised in the last meeting regarding a pre-requisite in the STAT 610 course that was added to the curriculum. However, conversation with the Econ department clarified the matter and information was included in Curriculog. Dan Kuester was also present to answer questions as needed. He verified that students still have the choice to take any of the other options to fulfill the requirements and will not add any burden to them. Motion carried to approve. This is an expedited change and so will not need to be on the FS agenda.

- Course Proposals:

To view full proposals, see the Curriculog Agenda: <https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:1001/form>

Arts and Sciences	BIOL - 864 - Plant Responses to the Environment BIOL - 895 - Graduate Seminar in Biology
Education	EDCI - 812 - History of Education EDCI - 813 - Comparative Philosophies of Education
Vet Med	AP - 601 - Cardiorespiratory Physiology AP - 603 - Cardiovascular Physiology

Easton moved and Von Bergen seconded to approve courses as listed above.

Questions:

BIOL 864. There was a comma in the requisites section that should be an "and." This will be edited.

AP 601. There was a question in the requisites section as it referred to counting towards "the degree" but it wasn't clear which degree, so perhaps it should say "any" degree. This will be clarified, along with whether the field should be check-marked that says it is repeatable for credit. The course otherwise is fine.

Motion carried.

- Expedited Proposals approved by colleges/Grad Council:

To view full proposals, see the Curriculog Agendas: <https://kstate.curriculog.com/agenda:1002/form>

These proposals do not require approval unless one is deemed to be standard instead of expedited.

Arts and Sciences	BIOCH - 775 - Molecular Biophysics BIOL - 612 - Freshwater Ecology COMM - 800 - Teaching Public Speaking
Education	Curriculum and Instruction (M.S.)

Technology & Aviation	CMST - 305 - Robotics Programming ECET - 385 - Advanced Programmable Logic Controllers
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There were no objections, therefore, these items will be moved forward. There was a brief question on COMM 800 whether it needs marked as repeatable. That will be checked on.

6. New Business

A. Academic Continuity update

Discussed above. No further conversation here.

B. Clarification of FERPA Regulations related to informing advisor/instructor of student grade

A question had been raised in FS Exec committee last week as to whether an instructor could share information with the instructor in the next course about a student's grade, for example, if the course a student just passed was a pre-req in a series and they received a "Pass" and that instructor wants to let the next one be aware of status, etc. Does sharing that kind of information pose any kind of violation to FERPA? Yes, this is a violation. It could bias the next instructor and is not on a need-to-know basis simply because of being a pre-requisite to another course. If the received a passing grade, they pass. The conversation moved into discussion about providing accommodations for students with disabilities as well as proctoring exams for students.

C. Changing Expedited proposal to Standard

It was inquired what the procedures should be for moving an expedited change to a standard route when deemed necessary by this committee. After discussion it was agreed this should be a two-step procedure. First, this committee needs to vote on moving it to from expedited to standard. Second, this committee needs to decide whether the proposal needs to go back to college faculty for a full vote or if it can move forward to the next step of Faculty Senate AAC and FS. This allows for some flexibility as needed, since not every situation is identical. This will be incorporated into the approval, routing, and notification procedures manual.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Approval, Routing, and Notification manual discussion

Easton met with Niehoff and Brundage on Friday, document will be edited to incorporate accepted suggestions. It was clarified this manual, due to the overhaul, will be voted on by this committee as well as Faculty Senate. In short, this manual outlines the procedures by which Faculty Senate agrees to handle the review of course and curriculum proposals and other University academic policy that may come before Faculty Senate for approval.

8. Announcements/for the good of the University

A. Co-Chair for 2020-2021

Easton reminded members of the opening for a committee co-chair for the upcoming year.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 4:06 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2020; 3:00 pm