

Meeting #4 Academic Policies and Personnel Committee (2015- 2016)

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

GL 835 @ MMC / HL 210 @BBC

Minutes

Members present: M. O. Thirunarayanan (ED), Chairperson, Fred Blevens (JM), Michael Christie (EG), Yesim Darici (AS), Sharon Simon (CNHS), Adis Beesting (Library), Howard Wasserman (Law), Marin Gillis (Medicine),

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:11 p.m.
2. The agenda was approved without corrections/additions.
3. The minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2015 were approved without corrections.
4. Approval of Academic Calendar Shells 2017 – 2018 & 2018 – 2019 Kevin Coughlin, University Registrar
 - Spring 2016 is 17 weeks long.
 - Start of finals week coincided with entire week of Passover. Changes were made to accommodate the holiday.
 - Calendars are aligned with other Metropolitan Universities.
 - Mini term affects when Fall term begins. Students should have grades available before they can register for the next term.

Motions:

The Academic Calendar shell for 2017 – 2018 was unanimously approved.

The Academic Calendar shell for 2018 – 2019 was unanimously approved.

5. Development of a policy that addresses how decisions to host a controversial event/show @FIU are vetted through Faculty Governance – Yesim Darici
 - What kind of minimum requirements shall an event have to meet to be approved???
 - What does sponsorship mean? What does FIU brand mean?
 - Policy intended to include faculty in the process.

- Policy/process must respect academic freedom & free speech.
 - Important to check what the State allows or mandates in terms of university events.
 - It was suggested that we invite University legal counsel
 - Are we discussing when a space is rented or merely used?
 - Yesim will email a draft of the policy to the Committee.
 - Draft policy will be reviewed at the February 23 meeting.
 - Once policy is drafted, send draft to University Counsel
6. Observance of Religious Holidays Motion Discussion – Motion tabled by the FS Steering Committee.
- Original APPC motions tabled by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.
 - FS needed additional clarification on syllabus statement and listing of Holy Days.

Original Motion (tabled):

The APPC recommends that Official University Policy on the Observance of Religious Holy Days be approved. The motion was approved unanimously with no change, but suggests that the following statement be added to the syllabus template: “A student who desires to be excused from class to observe a holy day of his or her religious faith should notify all of his or her instructors preferably upon receipt or access to the syllabus, and no later than the end of the second week of class.”

Revised motion, to be resubmitted to Faculty Senate:

The APPC recommends that Official University Policy on the Observance of Religious Holy Days be approved. The motion was approved unanimously with no change.

Original Motion (tabled):

The APPC recommends that Academic Affairs create a list of all major religious holy days to be posted on the Faculty Resource page. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion withdrawn

7. New Business –

- Are the questions included in the Student Assessment of Instruction appropriate for online courses?
- Committee will review the questions and at February meeting.
- Adis will send SAI questions to Committee with Agenda.

8. The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Next meeting:

- Tuesday, February 23 @1:00 p.m. - DM 457 @ MMC/AC1-317@BBC

Respectfully submitted by,
Adis Beesting, Secretary