

Curriculum and Policies Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2023

Voting Members Present: Doan Goolsby, Caleb Simmons, Karin Nolan, Amber Rice, Ally Roof (Proxy for Claudia Stanescu), Dereka Rushbrook, Christopher Sanderson, Travis Spence, Joost Van Haren, Jeremy Vetter

Non-voting Members Present: Cassidy Bartlett, Carmin Chan, Holly Nelson, Abbie Sorg, Alex Underwood, Sharon Aiken-Wisniewski

Guests Present: Rebecca Drake, Shelley McGrath, Susan Miller-Cochran, Steve Morrison

Voting Members Absent: Leslie Dennis

Chair Joost Van Haren called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. A quorum was established with 9 voting members. One additional member joined after the meeting was called to order.

I. Policy Proposals

A. Enrollment Policies proposal

Presenters: Abbie Sorg, Alex Underwood

Committee members were informed that though the Enrollment policies proposal was previously up for review last spring, additional changes had been made once discussion occurred at the graduate level.

A stipulation was added that the Office of the Registrar may grant first-year students beginning in summer full-time status with only 6 units. This was added primarily for international student athletes, who must be enrolled full-time to maintain their visa status and must be on campus in the summer for athletics.

Students with I-20 visas must meet full-time enrollment in summer if it is their first term. In future years for each individual student, they may remain in the summer regardless of whether they are enrolled.

Discussion began:

- One member questioned the use of open-ended language “first time students in summer term” for a stipulation that’s meant to affect a specific student group, like international student athletes. It was asked whether any student would be able to petition for the right to have their required minimum units for full time status be reduced.
 - This committee was informed that though international student athletes were the current reason behind the update, there would likely be other student groups that could be supported in the same way. Because of this, the language was kept vague.

- However, this stipulation only enables the Office of the Registrar to grant full-time status *academically*, not financially. Because international students don't qualify for financial aid, this doesn't affect them. But domestic students (who plan to use financial aid) seeking this exception would need to be made aware of this.
- A committee member questioned the decision to include the stipulation in policy, referencing how prior discussion concluded with the student group being too small to consider changing the policy for.
 - It was confirmed that only ~30 students fall into the category of international student athlete. Though International Student Services does not recruit students to start in summer, practices for fall sports start before international students are allowed to come to the US if they are starting class in the Fall. As a result, international student athletes must enroll for summer to arrive in time for Fall sports.
- Another member asked about the policy's potential benefit for military-connected students who must maintain full time status to receive their funding.
 - It was reiterated that this would only apply to first-year military students beginning in the summer term, though this could still be helpful for those starting during the second summer session.
- It was clarified to the committee that one additional change had been made to the proposal: a table displaying the credits required for full and half-time status. This was added upon the knowledge that federal loan repayment deferral is based on half-time status, not full-time status. However, the information in the table was derived from the policy, so it is not a significant change.

Christopher Sanderson moved to approve the updated policy, and Caleb Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor.

B. Credit for Prior Learning Policy proposal

Presenters: Abbie Sorg, Alex Underwood, Steve Morrison, Shelley McGrath

A representative from the Emergency Services BS program informed the committee that the program requires paramedic certification for admission to the major, which entails ~1,000 hours of field experience and classroom time.

Though paramedic certification programs follow a national curriculum, only students with paramedic certification from an accredited institution, like Pima Community College, can easily transfer in their credits. Students from less-recognized programs (often in rural areas) are doing the same work and not receiving that transfer credit. Accepting an increased prior learning credit from these students would improve equity.

Additionally, some previous students in this program who expected to graduate could not, because though they had completed all program requirements, they didn't have 120 units needed to graduate. Rather than helping these students through exceptions to policy, the policies should be adjusted to handle these cases transparently and

consistently. Of the students in this program who have been deficient in credits to graduate, none needed as many as 30.

The committee was assured that paramedic certification must be renewed every two years, so only students with active certification would be able to receive prior learning credit.

Additional programs may be eligible to grant additional units of prior learning credit, though they must first be approved. The amount of credit awarded will be based on the total required for the program.

Discussion began:

- One committee member questioned what other programs might be eligible.
- The same member was enthusiastic about providing greater equity for students who can't participate in standard higher education.

Christopher Sanderson moved to approve the updated policy, and Caleb Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 9 votes in favor.

C. General Education Policies: Attributes & Curriculum proposals

Presenters: Jeremy Vetter

The chair of the University-Wide General Education Committee (UWGEC) informed the subcommittee that UWGEC endorses delaying the implementation of these requirements to benefit from 2 additional years (and one full matriculation) of data collection. This additional time would help the OGE and UWGEC determine whether the requirements are workable in their current form.

A delay in implementation would also allow for concurrently adding an additional attribute, Civic Knowledge and American Institutions (which is required to be in compliance with ABOR). Additional time offers a chance to establish a plan for communicating the new curriculum to faculty and students.

Discussion Began:

- One member stated that advisors had not been discussing the new attributes with students as much as would be ideal if the start date were still going to be 2024, so they agreed it would be prudent to delay for two more years.
- The same member questioned why language on the additional attribute needed to be ABOR compliant isn't in the proposal.
 - A OGE representative clarified that the new attribute hasn't been formulated yet. However, the change to the enforced year must be updated now to be ready for the 2024 catalog.

Amber Rice moved to approve the updated policy, and Christopher Sanderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 10 votes in favor.

Joost adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m. The next subcommittee meeting will be held on October 10, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Cassidy Bartlett, 9/13/23