

Academic Standards Council

Year End Report 2010-2011

Council Members: L. Gazzillo Diaz, Kinesiology; R. Kearney, Library; F. Li, Marketing and Management; S. Mankiw, Elementary and Early Childhood, H. Maratouk, IRT; E. Stroppel, Communication; K. Vassilev, Languages and Cultures

Administrative Liaison: I. Olaye, Associate Dean, COAC

Meeting dates: September 30, October 26, November 16, 2010 and January 25, February 15, March 29, and May 3, 2011

Standing Charges:

1. Review and recommend policy for the adoption, implementation and enforcement of educational and academic standards.
2. Review and recommend policy for the adoption, implementation and enforcement of educational and academic standards in curricular issues.
 - **The Council put together a proposal to revise the number of credits required for graduation with honors (SEE ADDITIONAL CHARGES #1)**
3. Liaise with university officials responsible for all academic policy matters to conduct an ongoing review of their effectiveness.
 - **The Council is compiling a document to define the scope of this charge in relation to the “Academic and Related Regulations” detailed on pages 49-59 of the 2008-2010 Undergraduate Catalog. Communication with University officials responsible for the policies will begin in 2011-2012.**

Standing Charges Revision (Pending Recommendation from the Governance Council):

2. Review and recommend policy for the adoption, implementation and enforcement of educational and academic standards in curricular issues and other areas. (Essentially, this is merging Standing Charges #s 1 and 2.)

Additional Charges for 2010-2011:

1. Report on the number of credit hours required for a student (including transfer students) to receive Latin honor (i.e. cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude).
 - **The Council made a recommendation to the Senate reducing this number to 48 credits. The Senate approved this on May 5, 2011.**
2. Develop a form for implementation of the video and audio recording in class policy.
 - **The Council sent a form to the Senate, which was approved on January 25, 2011.**

3. Develop strategies to implement and communicate the Academic Integrity Policy approved by the Senate on September 8, 2008.
 - **The Council has made inquiries as to the status of the new policy for two years, but as yet has heard only that it is still in the State Attorney General's office. Nevertheless, the Council has discussed steps toward implementing this by identifying where and how it should be disseminated. This needs to be put into a written form.**
4. Develop recommendations for best pedagogical practices to maximize online learning and instruction.
 - **The Council has continued to pursue this topic throughout the year. We have found the current guidelines that govern the teaching of online courses and are utilizing them as a basis to focus on pedagogical practices. We have also researched online practices at other institutions.**
5. Identify resources for online instruction.
 - **The Council has noted that IRT does one-on-one instruction for this, and is aware of an online institute. We are continuing to pursue this.**
6. Review incomplete grade policy.
 - **The Council discussed this policy as stated in the undergraduate catalogue, and has written a proposal to be put forth at the start of the 2011-2012 year. The proposal reduces the time to complete an IN grade to 30 days within the end of the semester in which it is issued.**

7. (#7 is directly from Dr. Steve Hahn) Currently the undergraduate catalog reads (p. 13): There are some limitations on the number of credits accept, e.g., a maximum of 70 credits from a two-year college or 90 credits from a four-year college; the last 30 credits must be earned at William Paterson University; *not more than 15 credits required for a major will be accepted...*

We recognize that 70/90 question is under discussion. We would like to raise the issue of the “15 credits required for a major” and suggest in the alternative “*no more than half the credits required for a major will be accepted...*”

We believe the 15 credit rule was created when most majors were thirty credit liberal arts majors. Applying the rule currently to credit-intensive majors such as Biology, Chemistry, Math, Athletic Training, and so on, where the major includes 50 to 60 credits, can mean that a transfer student is required to take 15 or more credits in the major (65 to 75 credits) when compared to the continuing WPU student.

- **The Council has submitted a resolution to the Senate Executive Council proposing the recommended modification to the language. This item is currently pending a vote by the Senate.**

Recommendations for Additional Charges, 2011-2012

1. Put forth revised policy and process on IN grades
2. Develop detailed academic standards for online courses within the scope of the current guidelines.
3. Assess the academic efficiency of the Winter session.
4. Review effectiveness of the Course Repeat Policy.