

2-14-2008

CWU Academic Affairs Committee Minutes - 02/ 14/08

Janet Shields

Central Washington University, senate@cwu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/fcminutes>

Recommended Citation

Shields, Janet, "CWU Academic Affairs Committee Minutes - 02/14/08" (2008). *All Faculty Committee Minutes*. Paper 259.
<http://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/fcminutes/259>

This Meeting Minutes is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Committee Minutes at ScholarWorks@CWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Faculty Committee Minutes by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@CWU.

Minutes
Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee
February 14, 2008

Present: Kim Bartel, Joe Brooks, Tim Dittmer, Tim Englund, Dan Neighbors, Krystal Noga, Marla Wyatt

Absent: Sura Rath and Carolyn Wells

Guest(s): None

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kim Bartel at 3:24 pm

February 7, 2008 minutes were approved as presented.

Unfinished Business:

A. Final Examination Schedule, Faculty Survey – Kim has not been able to work on this.

B. AAC07-08.04 Committee Charge

Discuss AAC members' feedback from their respective departments as outlined in last meeting.

Based on previous ad hoc committee reports to the FS in 1994 and 1997-1998, consider the conclusions reached and examine how similar concerns have been addressed by other universities, especially in Washington and at peer institutions (from list compiled by CWU Office of Institutional Research). Please compare our current grading policy (Section 5-9.4.14) with those of other institutions to determine the impact of establishing a university-wide grading policy based on:

1. a specific GPA
2. the use numerical scores instead of letter grades
3. adding class rankings or class averages next to student letter grades

If there is time and the committee is so inclined, please feel free to examine additional conclusions reached in these reports, including but not limited to:

1. the effect of reducing or eliminating Withdrawals
2. the effect of reducing or eliminating Incompletes
3. the effect of sharing grade information/distributions among faculty by department/college (i.e., self-correction)

The EC requests a report by May 15, 2008, summarizing the committee's work and providing any recommendations that would effectively address grade inflation at CWU.

Homework – to get feedback from departments.

Kim indicated that the faculty she spoke with regarding grade inflation said they believe that basic grade inflation exists but don't know what to do about it. Tim Dittmer indicated that in Economics there is very little grade inflation. Information is passed on to new faculty that the average grade is a C. There is no pressure to elevate the grade average. Krystal indicated in Law & Justice the faculty in Ellensburg hear lots about grades. Those that do inflate grades have

a whole list of reasons while they do it. The department Chair responded that several professors did not want poor evaluations. In CEPS previously evaluations were a big part of promotion and tenure process. Tim Englund didn't see that there is much of a correlation between grades and evaluations. Math department fails as many or more than other departments and yet every quarter they beat the average SEOI scores for the college and university. Student perspective was there was not a correlation between horrible grades and the evaluation. If students think a professors is amazing or if they not as enjoyable, even with higher grade, they give worse evaluations. A number of adjuncts are only rehired if they give strong grades. Joe polled the faculty in the Music department. In Music, faculty go out and recruit specific students and as a result are getting pretty high students. Nine of DHC students were Music majors. The department GPA is pretty high. However, a consistent definition of grades would go a long way to help grade inflation. However, some faculty were strongly opposed to student ranking next to grade. Krystal indicated some problems with the Centers is that students are coming from the community colleges and don't step it up and produce at the university level. Kim had a handout of WWU and EWU grading policies. They were both identical to CWU as far as letter grade equivalent to GPA. There is a concern about polling faculty and/or students and not getting much in way of statistical data. One suggestion is to work at the department level with new instructors and adjuncts. Committee members asked what is driving the initial request. Has the grade level increased over the past 5 years? Kim will do a little more national search on grade inflation. Need to work with IR and Carolyn and find out history of grade inflation. Is there a department and college comparison? Talk with Tracy Terrell and what her opinion is. This could possibly be a topic for faculty development. Was requested to ask Jeff to come and speak with the committee at their next meeting.

New Business: None

Meeting was adjourned at 4:21 pm

Next meeting date February 21, Barge 410 (and telecon)