University-Wide Impact Committee
Minutes 02/12/15


I. Call to Order  The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am (quorum reached).

II. Old Business
A. New Minor Proposal: Exercise Science (Sports Studies)
   Motion to Approve: S. Grace, 2nd D. Fairchild (13 – 0 – 0)

B. Independent Study Policy
   The current policy reads as follows:
   
   Independent Study Under Guidance is appropriate when one or more of the following factors prevail:
   
   1. The student has taken all of the regularly scheduled course work available in the field of interest in which pure specialization is desired; or
   
   2. A topic for study is interdisciplinary and courses bringing together the desired elements in a specific configuration are unavailable; or
   
   3. The University does not offer course work related directly to a proposed topic (which nevertheless falls within the purview of academic university study) but experts in the field at Southern Connecticut State University (or others) are available to advise and to supervise students under the aegis of faculty sponsors.

   Motion to Add a Fourth Factor
   
   4. If a course is full or canceled, there is no appropriate departmental course substitution, and a student needs that particular course to avoid a delayed graduation date, then this course may be offered as an independent study.

   S. Grace; 2nd J. Alexander (14 – 0 – 0)

III. New Business
A. Procedure for 4 + 1 programs  (There are programs wishing to propose programs that award both a B.S. & M.S. programs in a span of 5 years. We were tasked to discuss how a procedure to propose a program might work. Below you will find some suggestions / observations
   - Because students may take a little more time to complete these programs, perhaps we should call them "Blended programs" or "B.S.
There should be one form to fill out, but discussions should be had in UWIC and Grad Council. At that point, the chairs of these two committees can discuss with the proposer their suggestions.

If there is an outside accreditation body who has established requirements for such “4 + 1” programs, those should be stated on the proposal.

If a student is in this program, there should be some guarantee about required courses running to keep the student’s graduation date.

Is there a minimum GPA to get in or stay in the program? Will students enter the program as freshmen?

At what point in the program is the student considered a graduate student? This is for the purpose of Financial Aid and Tuition.

Before the program is approved, there should be discussions with the appropriate Dean about what the class enrollment expectations and enrollment trajectory are. Similar discussions should be made about the number of students pursuing the degree.

B. Possible discussion points at future meetings

Invite the Director of Academic Technologies to the meeting to discuss online courses and course platforms. Possibly invite Karen Musmanno as well.

Invite Rick Riccardi to discuss implications of class cancelations, grade replacement policy, and independent study policies.

Discuss Transform 2020 and the implication of the Academic Program Optimization