

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Rodney B. Piercey
DATE: March 3, 2008
RE: March Faculty Senate Report

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POLICY AND GOVERNANCE:

The Office of Academic Affairs continues to work on reviewing and organizing the University's body of policy relating to Academic Affairs. Existing policies are being converted to the new policy template and then being reviewed for accuracy, currency, and consistency. Currently, four existing policies in this format have been submitted to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate for their review: 4.6.3 (Faculty Appointments), 4.6.5 (Evaluation of Non-Tenured Faculty), 4.6.6 (Evaluation of Part-time Faculty), and 4.6.7 (Adjunct Faculty). Additionally, 4.1.2 (Course Syllabi) will be presented to the Provost Council in an upcoming meeting. The existing policy has proposed revisions and a syllabus template, which is based from the recommendations of workgroup formed by former Provost Chapman. Following Provost Council review, 4.1.2 will be submitted to the Executive Committee.

We are also working on two proposed policies. The first is 4.6.1 (Determination of Qualifications for Teaching Faculty). The recent SACS reaffirmation process revealed the need for ECU to have more explicit qualification guidelines in its policy. In addition, this policy will establish explicit procedures for ensuring these qualifications and ongoing compliance with accrediting standards. The draft policy is currently being reviewed by the Provost Council. The second proposed policy is also an outgrowth of the SACS reaffirmation. Policy 4.3.4 (Joint Curricular, Collaborative, and Consortial Agreements), which is in early draft form, will ensure that Academic Affairs Memoranda of Agreement comply with SACS policies and that all agreements are properly vetted and periodically reviewed.

Finally, we are working on providing some clarifications to the recently passed 4.6.4 (Promotion and Tenure). As soon as these clarifications are vetted through appropriate channels, including the Executive Committee, they will be published to the academic community. Additionally, 1.1.1 (Formulation and Adoption of University Policies) continues to be vetted across campus. Comments made at the last Faculty Senate meeting have been noted and we will continue to work on revisions. As soon as it is ready, a revised draft will be re-submitted to Faculty Senate.

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS:

Strategic Planning & Program Review:

SPC has submitted the final report on progress towards the goals of the 2006-10 University Strategic Plan to President Whitlock. We are starting a work group in conjunction with the Chairs' Association to look at possible changes to the Program Review process to make it more effective and user-friendly.

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP):

To create a baseline of senior level student assessment in critical thinking, 400 and 500 level courses were selected at random, but with an equal proportion to the senior level student body by college. More than 35 faculty members have been contacted with 11 agreeing to have the CAT test administered to their students. So far, two courses have had the CAT administered to their students this semester. QEP analyst Michele Goltz attended a Nosich round table to discuss the critical thinking workshop and how it can be incorporated into the classroom. This meeting included a great discussion on critical thinking including having a University-wide shared definition and commonly used language and concepts.

State Compliance and University Accreditations:

Dr. E. J. Keeley represented ECU at the CPE's Q&A Policy Meeting in Frankfort on February 1st and participated in the CPE's Adult Learner Summit on February 4th and 5th. The Department of Computer Science received full reaffirmation of ABET accreditation with many accolades. IE and the NCATE team are continuing the work in preparation for the College of Education's reaffirmation of accreditation from NCATE. We are also working to determine which documents from ECU's successful SACS reaffirmation will be posted on the ECU website, and how best to make them available to the ECU community.

Assessment:

UAC Subcommittee Three is reviewing the following areas of university-wide assessment:

- ❖ Student learning gains in critical thinking (including analytic reasoning) and written communication -- The Voluntary System of Accountability of AASCU and NASULGC requires a measure of this aspect of student learning. Either the Collegiate Learning Assessment or Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency would need to be administered to meet this requirement—both instruments will be reviewed for their utility.
- ❖ Course-completion and grade-distribution studies – SACS in its Federal Requirement 4.1 mandates “consideration of course completion” as one measure of student achievement. We will review how other institutions report and use course grades for assessment and improvement of student learning, and what would be best for ECU.
- ❖ Student satisfaction and student engagement – Many institutions seek information regarding student satisfaction with their college experience. We will review how other institutions measure student satisfaction, which instruments (like the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory) are used, and how information is used to improve student success.
- ❖ Non-returning student surveys – It is important to understand why students who leave ECU do so, particularly those who could have continued but chose not to. We will research how other institutions discover the reasons why students leave, and how they use that information to improve student success (best practices).

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH:

EKU's Enrollment Dashboard (monitoring student enrollments for decision making) has transitioned from the Office of Transition and University Services to the Office of Institutional Research. Dr. Bethany Miller now provides the weekly Enrollment Dashboard. Institutional Research has created/distributed the Fast Facts Brochure (also posted online). The Factbook is being updated and will soon be published online. IR has launched three external surveys, six internal surveys and provided three internal survey consultations. We are beginning Spring 2008 Undergraduate and Graduate Alumni Surveys. CIRP data is being updated. IR has completed 27 ad-hoc data requests. We are very pleased to have launched GSS and GDC using SNAP software. On the SAS web front, a newly updated version of DataTab will use SAS behind the scenes. IR has completed and submitted IPEDS Human Resources and Enrollment Surveys. We are working on the processing and distribution of Fall 2007 IDEA Evaluations.