

AUC Student Affairs Subcommittee Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Tuesday, December 15th, 2020 3:30pm

Location: Virtual Setting via Google Meets

Members Present: Hank Parkinson, Andrea Olmstead, Felicia Farron-Davis, Jacalyn Kremer, Jason Smith, Les Nelken, Jay Bry, Rob Hynes, Robert Shapiro, Rose Kronziah-Seme

Members Absent: Dennis Awasabisah, Muhammad Mahmood (SGA Senator), Agnes Frias (SGA Senator), Christopher Sutcliffe (SGA Senator), Mairead Weagle (SGA Senator), Starr Brosseau (SGA Senator)

Guests: Alberto Cardelle, Laura Bayless

Chairperson Hank Parkinson called the meeting to order at 3:33pm.

Old Business:

None to note.

New Business:

Motion to discuss AUC 23: Institutionalized Learning Outcomes

Moved by Felicia Farron-Davis

Second by Jay Bry

Motion carries to the table.

Introduction:

These plans were developed in 2018-2019 as a result of Development Day that occurred in January of 2018. The conversation included staff and faculty from varied departments and backgrounds throughout the university. The discussion that focused on core learning outcomes of the LA&S program was focused around identifying the core components we wanted to emphasize, that all graduates from Fitchburg State would have. As a result of this discussion, it did inform the LA&S process, but also created an idea of establishing institutional learning priorities that would cut across different divisions of the university.

The terminology 'institutional learning outcomes' is not to be confused with program learning outcomes or curriculum learning outcomes-- because it is a result of both of these things combined. These outcomes also have impacts outside of just curriculum, and can range anywhere from student development programs to housing programs to student work study to summer research initiatives. The goal is to inform and educate students, this acts as a mission for the university.

What we are asking is for AUC to recognize these priorities, and not necessarily as an approval. These are overarching priorities that occur on the level of a strategic plan and establish broad-based guidelines, which act as a guide of the values, skills, and knowledge that we hope our students will leave our campus with.

Discussion:

I love this idea, I think it's a really great one and very timely. I'm having a hard time wrapping my head around this notion of priority, versus how they operationalize into policies, procedures, and outcomes. Maybe you could expand on this. How is this a priority that needs to be voted on, unless it is actually outcome-driven? (Farron-Davis)

As Alberto mentioned earlier, this isn't so much a policy that will be implemented following the event, it is moreso an acknowledgement that this is one of the 30,000 foot level guidance documents for the institution; in the same way as the mission or strategic plan. (Bayless)

So is this something we would normally vote on? (Farron-Davis)

I somewhat agree with you Felicia, this is not something that would normally filter through AUC, but it became part of our strategic plan as a way of getting the university to acknowledge them, in order to get shared governance of these plans. That's why we decided to put this through AUC, so there is a formal process of recognition. (Cardelle)

That helps me to understand this from a mission philosophy, so thank you. (Farron-Davis)

In the ILP proposal there is a small typo-- "arger community" should read "larger community". Perhaps that is not in the non-pdf version. (Nelken)

I just wanted to mention that as written in the proposal, these institutionalized learning priorities map pretty closely to the AAC&U essential learning, and that is very widely accepted. It's nice to see that we are in alignment with that. (Kremer)

Motion to recommend recognition of AUC 23: Institutionalized Learning Outcomes

Moved by Felicia Farron-Davis

Second by Jay Bry

Motion passes unanimously.

Motion to discuss AUC 24: Change to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grade Policy

Moved by Felicia Farron-Davis

Second by Jason Smith

Motion carries to the table.

Introduction:

This is for a permanent change to our satisfactory/unsatisfactory policy. As you may recall, in the Spring of 2020 we allowed students to opt in to any course with certain limitations with the satisfactory/unsatisfactory option. This was a cumbersome process, which consisted of many changes, and was a special situation. When we were revisiting that policy to decide if we would repeat this process this year, we decided not to, and allowed students to opt for that after the fact.

We realized that the students' deadline for deciding to take an S/U grade occurred at the same time as the add/drop period. We wanted to pair this with the withdrawal date, to give the students the option to either withdraw from the course, or to take a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade that won't impact their GPA.

This does not change any other restrictions or regulations, with the exception of that it drops the line that you can only take a certain number of S/U grades for each category of the LA&S requirements-- because students starting on or after September 2021, as they will be following a new LA&S program that does not have these categories.

So those are the two changes: pushing back the S/U grade deadline and dropping the category requirements for students starting on or after September of 2021.

Discussion:

No discussion.

Motion to recommend approval of AUC 24: Change to Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grade Policy

Moved by Felicia Farron-Davis

Second by Jason Smith

Motion passes unanimously.

Closing Comments:

I just wanted to thank you all for your work this semester, this has been the busiest semester for AUC so far-- which is a good thing. I just wanted to wish you all the happiest and safest holiday-- however you choose to celebrate that. And please remember to take time for yourselves. I think we all learned that after this past semester. (Parkinson)

Thank you for your service, and we will try to keep you busy. (Cardelle)

Hank, thank you for all that you do and happiest of holidays to everyone. (Farron-Davis)

Be well everyone. (Smith)

Thanks! Happy Holidays. (Olmstead)

Happy New Year! (Kremer)

Thank you, Happy New Year. (Kronziah-Seme)

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Jason Smith

Second by Jacalyn Kremer

Motion passes unanimously.