

ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING April 8, 2011

In attendance: Julia Norrgard, Shawn Sturgeon, Edi Muhaxheri, Eranda Aliu, Mrika Kotorri, Hana Sahatqija, Richard Castleberry, Chris Hall

I. Call to order

JNorrgard opened the meeting by welcoming guests. Went over rules.

II. Last Meeting Minutes

Discussion of Minutes of last meeting, correction required to the changes made in Faculty Hiring Policy, under II Hiring Procedure, the correct date should be “**15 February**” instead of “15 April. Motion to correct made by RCastleberry. EMuhaxheri seconded.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve minutes made by RCastleberry. Seconded by EMuhaxheri.

Motion carried.

III. Comments by President Hall

CHall announced that AUK has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dukagjini European College in Peja. This is AUK’s first agreement with a private college in Kosovo. This agreement allows students from Dukagjini European College to transfer up to 32 hours of credit to AUK upon reaching certain standards and completing certain courses. CHall also mentioned that the status of contract with RIT is moving ahead.

CHall also discussed the idea of creating endowed “chairs” for certain disciplines, funded by local companies.

IV. Comments by Academic Director Sturgeon

SSturgeon announced that during the next year AUK will offer three new courses: Introduction to Sociology, Philosophy, and Introduction to Psychology. There will also be some changes in the Math curriculum. AUK is trying to increase the level of math it offers. The idea is to include trigonometry, algebra, or other math courses, so students who want to major in IT will have the proper math knowledge. SSturgeon clarified that there will not be any change to the existing courses, but we will have these new courses.

Faculty contracts will be finished by May 31st. Also, next month he will be working on the evaluation. Faculty will be evaluated on teaching, service, and research. The intention of the evaluation is to assist faculty in improving their performance and in acknowledging their contributions.

The grid plan is completed, and within a week, everyone will have a copy of the grid plan.

SSturgeon announced plans for the summer sessions. There will be several courses, and these will all be 4 credits. The list of courses will be sent next week, published on the website. However, these courses need to have enough students in order to be offered.

Also a new course will be offered - Lean 6 Sigma – which will be taught by Professor Wetzel. SSturgeon stated that this is a great course, very affordable, and very important for graduates.

V. Charter Amendment

Charter amendment is ready. SSturgeon will email it to all the faculty for input and it will be ready for further action by the next meeting.

VI. Policy Review

University Writing Policy and Writing Across the Curriculum: Discussion

SSturgeon explained the background. Too many universities had too few writing courses and, as young people were reading less, the quality of writing was seen to be deteriorating. Courses such as this one are an attempt to rectify this deficiency.

CHall suggested that each concentration should have at least one required writing course.

There was a discussion regarding the fact that many non-English teachers grade on content, but feel that it is not their place to address grammar or other “English” issues. It was suggested that appropriate guidelines for all teachers should be prepared so that the importance of Writing Across the Curriculum is fully understood and that methods of grading might be shared to make it easier for them. Also, a good idea might be to have workshops for faculty on this issue. [SSturgeon is planning a workshop on Writing Across the Curriculum for all faculty.]

RCastleberry suggested that students should be encouraged to use the Academic Support Center and the help ASC tutors offer.

Section B - The first line needs to be corrected as follows: “The **University** Writing Policy is based on the following premises:”

Section E - the date on the first line of needs to be changed to “**5 May 2011**” Also, the date in the last line should be changed to “**Fall Term 2011.**”

Motion to approve changes in Section B and Section E by EMuhaxheri. RCastleberry seconds.

Motion carried

Motion to approve the policy, with corrected TOEFL scores (to be supplied by SSturgeon) by EMuhaxheri. RCastleberry seconds.

Motion carried.

VII. Other Matters

Basic Writing Caps on Number of Students in the Classes – Discussion based on EAliu shared memo. In the past the cap was 18, then this quarter caps changed to 23. This is a large cap, and EAliu is concerned about this, because these students usually come from the English Foundation program and they need substantial assistance. Large classes make this extremely difficult. SSturgeon explained that this is mainly a technical problem because the cap for this course at RIT is 25, so the electronic registration system allows students to register, even though our cap is lower.

Proposed Psychology Course [by Edona Maloku] – The proposed course was highly supported. MKotorri suggested that this course focus more on the social values, econometrics, psychic costs and psychic implications. EMuhaxheri stated that he is strongly in favor of this course. EMuhaxheri also stated that this course plays an important role also in finance and in math courses. It would focus more in Micro/Macroeconomic decisions and their social implications.

CHall and SSturgeon will support this course as long as it fits with RIT curriculum. However, with the new Introduction to Psychology course, a third psychology offering might be a problem.

Student Groups Representing AUK – postponed for next meeting.

Letter from Professor Daniel Cosentino – “Let’s Plug It In” is successfully completed. Professor Cosentino’s letter notes that we have no policy for retail businesses on campus. RCastleberry will work with Professor Cosentino and his students to create a suitable policy for Senate review.

On this same issue, there was a discussion [RCastleberry] regarding junior enterprises and its value for students. This too will need some regulation. Two enterprises are contemplated: 1. Market Research, and 2. Employment Agency.

Summer Program Scholarships – Student Government member, HSahatqija inquired about the policy on scholarships for the Summer Program, and why AUK students were not eligible. CHall explained that the available scholarship money was designed to diplomatically promote AUK abroad by bringing in foreign students.

Old Business

Assessment Plan discussion – SSturgeon and James Myers met with members of the General Education Unit, plus representative from the Math Unit to review the General Education Assessment of SOL plan. It was a very fruitful meeting and the group will continue to meet as needed.

SSturgeon suggested that every professor do learning outcomes for each concentration, so we can have a program (similar to Cathy Leyland's program).

Housekeeping

It will be decided if we need another meeting this month.

Motion to adjourn made by RCastleberry. Seconded by EMuhaxheri.

Motion carried.