Faculty Senate
Academic Policies Committee
Minutes
27 October 2026
11:00AM—12:00PM
UCC 308

The meeting began at 11:03AM

In Attendance: Jean Cook (Library), Kyunghee Moon (Senator, CMCS), Samantha White, (RCOB), Bonnie Jett (UC), Julie Talbot (Senator, CMCS), Corey Maggiano (Senator, CHASS), Lewis Baumstark (Computer Science, CMCS), Felix Tweraser (CHASS), Amy Ellison (Senator, UC), Matt Varga (Graduate School, ex-officio), Alicia Freed (Guest, Graduate School), Shelly Elman (Chair, CHASS), Deon Kay (SCFM), David Hicks (CoE), Diana Cheshire (Guest, Provost's Office), Marie Brown (Registrar's Office, ex-officio)

I. Approval of September 29, 2026 minutes
   a. 2 corrections need to be made:
      i. Change for admission into Double Wolf would go to 3.2 not 3.0
      ii. Graduation Requirements for Graduate School will be based on academic standing GPA in the graduate program of study, not institutional GPA.

II. Common Course Components (Diana Cheshire)
   a. Substantive course assignment for Attendance Verification
      i. Much discussion about this issue for both online and face-to-face courses
      ii. Many disciplines require more training, safety training for science and social science labs, exploration of techniques for creative disciplines, for example, that won't allow a "substantial" or "substantive" assignment in the first two weeks.
      iii. Distilled the issue down to the fact that the institution is held liable for federal financial aid mishaps including faculty who don't verify class rosters. Federal law requires RSI (Regular and Substantive Interaction) in all classes before roster verification (and during the entire semester). Students cannot fail a class for non-attendance.
      iv. For face-to-face courses, attendance can be the tool to use for attendance verification. For online classes, log ins alone can't be counted.
      v. Discussion focused on the need for better new faculty orientation about course roster verification to new faculty members, which the Registrar and the Assistant Provosts for Academic and Faculty Affairs will collaborate on.

vi. It was also stated that in new student orientation does include alerting students that financial aid can be lost if they do not attend or interact in their courses in the first two weeks.
vii. **Action Item:** It was determined unanimously by the APC to recommend that there should be a subheading in the Attendance Policy in the Concourse syllabus that explains the definition of interaction based on discipline-specific criteria. Additionally, IFE should be responsible for writing a "fill in the blank" narrative that includes USG language on substantive interaction that faculty can then add to (fill in the blanks) based on the discipline in which the course resides.

b. Midpoint Grades
   i. Discussion about Dr. Reber's request for the APC to examine the USG policy about midpoint grades, found in the USG Academic and Student Affairs Handbook, section 02.18 under Academic Feedback) in order to add a UWG policy to the Faculty Handbook.
   ii. Because time was running short and committee members had to go to class, further discussion of this item was put on hold and will be discussed at the APC's yet-to-be-scheduled November/December meeting.
   iii. Before the next meeting, Dr. Cheshire will clarify with Dr. Reber that the charge will be for APC to create institutional policy around the USG one, for the Faculty Handbook.

III. Academic Withdrawal Policy (sent back to APC from Senate)
   a. Because time ran out, this issue will be discussed further at the November/December APC Meeting.

IV. Graduate School (sent back to APC from Senate)
   a. Because time ran out, this issue will be discussed further at the November/December APC Meeting.

V. Other business
   a. Did not have any other business.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 12:10PM