



Educational Policies Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, 18 March 2019

Ex-Officio Members present (or represented): Faculty Senate Chair Pamela E. Grimm, Senior Associate Provost Melody J. Tankersley; Deans Christina L. Bloebaum, Kenneth J. Burhanna, John R. Crawford-Spinelli, James C. Hannon, Mark S. Mistur, Eboni J. Pringle, Nathan P. Ritchey, Alison J. Smith; Senior Associate Dean Vincent J. Hetherington; Associate Deans Miriam L. Matteson, Stephen A. Mitchell, Cynthia R. Stillings (representing John R. Crawford-Spinelli), Wendy A. Umberger (representing Barbara A. Broome), Manfred H. Van Dulmen, William T. Willoughby (representing Mark S. Mistur); Assistant Dean Kara L. Robinson

Ex-officio Members not present (or not represented): Provost Todd A. Diacon; James L. Blank, Amy L. Reynolds; Associate Deans Cathy L. DuBois

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives present (or represented): Professors Edward Dauterich, Darci L. Kracht; Associate Professor Ann Abraham, Vanessa J. Earp

Faculty Senate-Appointed Representatives not present (or not represented): Professors Christopher J. Fenk, Robert J. Twieg; Associate Professor Jennifer M. Cunningham

Council Representatives present (or represented): Professors Michael W. Chunn, Christopher Rowan, Richard L. Mangrum, Said M. Shiyab; Associate Professors Jooyoun Park, Denise M. McEnroe-Petitte, Jonathan F. Swoboda; Assistant Professors Sara Bayramzadeh, Kathy Chen, Duane J. Ehredt, Derek Kingsley (representing Natalie Caine-Bish); Associate Lecturer Timothy Roberts

Council Representatives not present (or not represented): Professors Paul Haridakis, Jonathan B. VanGeest; Associate Professors Ivan Bernal, Melissa D. Zullo; Assistant Professors Lindsay C. Baran; Lecturer Mary F. Kutchin

Observers not present: Lauren Oswald, Antonina Pakholkova Mohamed

Consultants and Guests present: Aimee J. Bell, Larry G. Froehlich, Jeff Hallam (representing Sonia A. Alemagno), Barb Miller-Harris, Gail M. Rebeta, Linnea C. Stafford, Therese E. Tillet, Don Williams (representing Deborah F. Spake), Catherine M. Zingrone

Co-Chair Pamela E. Grimm called the meeting to order at 3:24p.m., on Monday, 18 March 2019, in the Governance Chambers of the Kent State Student Center.

Joint EPC Action Item 1: Approval of 28 January 2019 meeting minutes.

Professor Edward Dauterich made a motion to approve the item, and Senior Associate Dean Vincent J. Hetherington seconded. No changes, corrections or clarifications were requested. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Undergraduate EPC Action Item 1: Revision of the Institutional Honors policy (for the bachelor's degree) and Distinction policy (for the associate degree).

Senior Associate Provost Melody Tankersley discussed the revision of the Institutional Honors policy. The current policy requires 60 or more KSU credit hours and a 3.5 or higher GPA. Students, parents, faculty and staff have reached out about recognizing transfer students with honors. She said transfer student admission is increasing and this is the time to recognize them. This year, 30% of transfer students would not be eligible for honors, because they brought in 60 or more credit hours. She explained that EPC Ad Hoc wanted to find a way for transfer students to be eligible for honors. In addition to keeping the 60 credit hour requirement, the proposal requests to establish a separate eligibility for students who do not meet the 60 credit hour minimum. Students would need a minimum of 3.5 transfer GPA at the point of their most recent admission to Kent State. Students seeking the bachelor's degree could be eligible in two ways.

- Completed at least 60 hours at KSU
- OR
- Not completed 60 hours and 3.5 transfer GPA

Senior Associate Provost Tankersley explained that the KSU GPA for honors will not change. The change is only in the number of credit hours required to be considered for honors. Honors names from other universities were researched. The proposal recommends changing the name from "Institutional Honors" to "Latin Honors." She stated that the majority of our 33 peer, aspirational, benchmark and Ohio institutions use "Latin Honors." All but one of the aspirational universities use the term "Latin Honors." In addition to the Bachelor's degree, EPC Ad Hoc is proposing to change the Associate's degree credit hour minimum from 32 to 30 KSU credit hours. This would align with the Bachelor's degree with 30 being half of the degree. She asked for questions.

Associate Professor Cynthia R. Stillings motioned to approve and Professor Richard L. Mangrum seconded.

An EPC member asked about a transfer student taking one KSU course and getting a 3.75 GPA.

Senior Associate Provost Tankersley said they would fall into the other category which is to complete 60 or more KSU credit hours.

Therese added that students must earn at least 30 KSU credit hours to earn a degree.

Another EPC member asked about a student that comes in with a 3.48 GPA, but has a KSU GPA that will earn them honors.

Senior Associate Provost Tankersley replied that it would depend on if the student has 60 or more KSU credit hours. If they have more than 60 KSU credit hours, only the KSU GPA would be reviewed. If the student has less than 60, then the transfer GPA would also be reviewed. There is no rounding. They would have to have a 3.5 or higher transfer GPA.

Professor Darci Kracht asked how the transfer GPA would be calculated. Additionally, she asked about the transfer GPA showing in the system, but the individual course grades not displaying.

Melody stated that the transfer GPA is only reviewed when the student has a 3.5 or higher, but below 60 KSU credit hours. She said that the registrar's office has been collaborated with on the implementation of transfer GPA calculation and creating a place in Flashline for transfer GPA to display. When students transfer in, it is the credit of the course that transfers and not the grade.

However, the grades are known and a transfer GPA can be calculated from them. A place in Flashline can be created to show the transfer GPA.

Professor Kracht asked if there is a place in Flashline showing that transfer GPA now.

Therese said that the transfer GPA is not currently in the audit. She explained that there currently is a place in Flashline where students can see institutional honors eligibility and that is where the transfer GPA will be.

Senior Associate Provost Tankersley said the idea is to be transparent so transfer students will know at the beginning if their work will be considered for institutional honors and if they are not going to meet the 60 credit hour KSU minimum.

Professor Kracht asked if course grades that are not transferred in for credit count towards the transfer GPA.

Therese replied no and that it is only the courses that they transfer in.

Professor Kracht asked for clarification on the policy statement that GPA is calculated to three decimal places and not rounded up. Additionally, she asked if it was truncated.

Senior Associate Provost Tankersley responded that was correct and is not changing from the current policy.

Co-chair Grimm referred to appendix d and asked for confirmation on the small amount of transfer students that could have been eligible for honors.

Senior Associate Provost Tankersley said that was correct and the amount was less than 0.5%. Bachelors who would have earned distinction was at 1%. It is not opening the floodgates. Instead, it is recognizing the students that transfer to Kent State and have done well in an equitable way.

Co-chair Grimm said that faculty have expressed concern for the quality of work students have coming in from some schools. Someone will raise that issue.

Dean Eboni Pringle explained that transfer GPA is used to make sure the student has the opportunity to earn the honors once they are here. The student has to be able to perform at a high level here in order to earn Latin Honors. It is not giving honors based on transfer GPA.

Senior Associate Provost Tankersley said in the end, those credits are being accepted. If there is an issue with courses being accepted for transfers, there needs to be a bigger discussion on that.

Members had no further questions or comments and the item passed unanimously.

With no requests for additional discussion, Co-Chair Grimm adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Christa N. Ord
Administrative Secretary, Curriculum Services, Office of the Provost