



ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY MINUTES

The first meeting of the Academic Policy Committee for AY 2022-23 was held virtually via Zoom on September 19, 2022.

Present: Dr. Bridget Wadzuk (Chair), Dr. Craig Wheeland, Dr. Sherry Burrell, Dr. Rachel Skrlac Lo, Dr. Michell McKay, Dr. Qi Wang, Dr. Kamran Javadizadeh, Dr. Mark Wilson, Dr. Stephanie Katz Linkmeyer, Dr. Troy Shirangi, Dr. Jennifer Altamuro, Dr. John Sedunov, Mr. Andrew Lund, JD, Jennifer O'Hare, Dr. Bette Mariani, Dr. Christine Palus, Dr. Wen Mao, Dr. Noelle Comolli, Dr. Michael Risch, JD, Ms. Ceydy Jaramillo, Mr. Charles Matthew, Mr. Brian Messalti

Guests: Ms. Kristy Irwin and Dr. Randy Weinstein

- 1) Dr. Wadzuk opened the meeting. Introductions were made and all were welcomed. Dr. Wadzuk stated this is her third year as APC Chair and stated the purpose of the APC is to discuss policies that are university-wide.
- 2) Dr. Wadzuk discussed the recap of AY 2021-2022, noting the academic calendar was looked at, in addition to class schedule timing and the snow day policy.
- 3) Course Modality Policy presented by Kristy Irwin and Randy Weinstein
 1. Kristy Irwin stated her goal is to provide clarity for course modalities. A need exists for a consistent benchmark definition because the multi-modal models are confusing.
 2. In Spring 2022, there were four course modalities: on-campus, online, hybrid, and simulcast. In Fall 2022, the Office of the Registrar identified 8 new modality definitions:
 - i) 100% in person
 - ii) 100% online synchronous (live)
 - iii) 100% online asynchronous (activities are built-in)
 - iv) Multi-modal simulcast (students are online and in the classroom at the same time.
 - v) 25% online
 - vi) 50% online
 - vii) 75% online
 - viii) By arrangement

Dr. Weinstein noted a need to support faculty, look at trends, and summer courses. Faculty cannot choose any modality that they want. If you are assigned a course, you are expected to teach that modality for the full semester. Modality must be approved by the chair and the dean. Grad school and Law School expectations are different, as well as summer teaching (must work with CPS and the dean).

These policies have always been in place but want to avoid ambiguity and provide clarification since COVID. The goal is to have everything clear and in place by January 2023. Modalities would begin in Summer 2023.

Should illness occur, faculty still have rights to cancel class or switch to online. Unplanned circumstances do not change the course modality.

Discussion ensued regarding student feedback on modalities. Dr. Weinstein noted only hard data is from Fall 2020, in which the survey found undergraduate students prefer live interaction. Summer courses are different in that older students prefer online. Both professors and students were surveyed about online learning both pre-COVID and post-COVID and there was incredible change. Faculty thought they were better at online teaching than their students did.

Recommendation vote by next meeting on October 17, 2022.

4.) Updates from Craig Wheeland:

1. Degree conferral policy – met with Enrollment Management team, who completed research in federal regulations. Looking at option for students who cannot receive federal financial aid.
2. Congratulations to Dr. Randy Weinstein for adding more technology to classrooms. 76 classrooms now have technology. 40% of all courses taught are recorded. Faculty can opt out of recording, of which 17% did.

5.) Standing committees for year:

1. Continue to have CATS subcommittee – currently looking for new chair
2. Committee in waiting – few APC members, made some judgments, helps streamline
3. Other ideas for subcommittees include (1) Honor Culture – VU doesn't have an honor code that's really applied. (2) Handling registration – some students are always ahead (3) Mental Health – have student representatives give updates about mental health. Dr. Wadzuk will send out sign up sheets for subcommittees.

Two more APC meetings scheduled for 10/17 and 12/5

Craig Wheeland made note that it's custom for the APC Chair to be a faculty member, but it does not bind who is chair of a committee.

Thanks to all.

