

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

November 19, 2020 - Minutes

2 -3 pm – (Zoom Meeting)

Attendees: see the list of those highlighted checked off (attached)

Provost Berberich called the meeting to order.

A motion was made to approve the October 15, 2020 minutes.

Minutes were unanimously approved.

- A. **UHCL Substantive Change Policy:** Dr. Kathryn Matthew shared that SACSCOC has their own substantive change policy that we must comply with and also requires all colleges to have their own. This policy was started in 2016; current document was revised in 2020. Majority of information is specific and set by SACS. Pat Cuchens explained that minor changes were made, key change was to include a link that would prevent more frequent updates to this periodic review.

Dr. Miguel Gonzalez made a motion to approved the policy. This was seconded by Dr. Joan Pedro.
The motion was unanimously approved.

- B. **Geoscience Tech Minor:** Dr. Becky Huss-Keeler introduced Dr. Cindy Howard, CSE, sponsor of the minor. They explained that the minor is 18 hours and integral to environmental science, and other fields such as biology and natural resources, etc. It provides hands on training in careers in technical fields. Students will gain knowledge in geospatial skills, GPS, etc. Courses will be taught by full time faculty members. This minor is more technical than the HSH Geography minor and will be targeting a different audience. Having both minors will give students options in all colleges to receive GIS training that is valuable to many majors. Dr. Howard has been communicating with Dr. Jeff Lash, Geography program, on the coordination of substitutions of introductory courses between each minor. There are several students are very interested and have taken some of the courses. Dr. Samuel Gladden clarified that the HSH Geography minor in place and students are currently enrolled. Both colleges agree that there is room for overlap to provide the greatest number of student opportunities.

Dr. Paul Withey made a motion to approved the policy. This was seconded by Dr. Elizabeth Beavers.
The motion was unanimously approved.

- C. **Inclusion and Diversity statement for consideration.** Dr. Randall Xu explained that the statement comes from the Teaching and Research Committee. Not a requirement but a recommendation for faculty to put into their syllabus to promote diversity and inclusion. Dr. Heather Kanenberg added that the University Life Committee has been reviewing the statement simultaneously. Dr. Christine Walther, Chair, has been working with Dr. Scott Richardson, Office of Title IX, in the event the statement goes forward.

Dr. Elizabeth Beavers made a motion to approved the policy. This was seconded by Dr. Randall Xu.
The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Discussion

Dr. Elizabeth Beavers provided the following updates:

- The Faculty Senate distributed the Student Survey yesterday, November 18, 2020.
- Currently working on finalizing a Faculty Survey. She welcomed any suggestions of questions to include in the survey for consideration. Please forward these suggestions to either Tim Richardson, Heather Kanenberg, Elizabeth Beavers and Provost Berberich.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting December 17, 2020.

Charise Armstrong, Secretariat