

Agriculture Academic Affairs Committee
Minutes, March 5, 2010
17 Curtiss

Chair Sarah Bender Miller called the Agriculture Academic Affairs Committee meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. March 5, 2010.

Present: Boury, Miller, Peyton, Polito, Burnett, Deaton, Tyler, Retallick and Osborn. Joan Cunnick was a guest.

Minutes of the February 5, 2010 meeting were approved.

Polito entertained discussion on the distribution of the Academic Dismissal Recommendation form. Due to FERPA regulations, we need to watch how we share academic information. There was consensus that Polito send it to the designated departmental contact through Sharepoint. That person will carry the sheet to each of the advisors listed on the dismissal form and get their recommendation on each of their students. The designated department contact will then send it back to Tom Polito through Sharepoint or hand deliver it to 23 Curtiss.

Burnett brought to the committee's attention that a drop slip will expire. Polito and Deaton thought it was 5 days after the last signature, however, Polito will double check the policy and get back to the committee.

Miller reported on the UAAC discussion items. The first item was the 18 credit ruling. The registrar is interested in finding out how the system to raise credits works in CALS. Polito commented that we've looked into it before and it's never been a problem in Ag. The registrar is worried that students are raising their credit limit to save seats, deciding later which class to drop, etc. In CALS the student will discuss with the advisor why he/she wants to have the 18 credit rule raised and the advisor will contact Deaton to have it raised. If the student wants to take above 21 credits, the student needs to see Polito. The committee wants to see the data on what percentage of students are not completing the above 18 credit schedule for our college. Discussion was held on the ISU catalog going from a 2 year catalog to a 1 year catalog. Transfer plans would need to be updated each year, faculty load issues were discussed, and also curriculum review. Miller reported that ISU will be sponsoring a van to travel to Lincoln, Nebraska May 14-16 to the NACADA conference. If anyone would like to attend, please see Miller.

Joan Cunnick was asked to present to the committee on the policies and procedures of the Honors program as viewed by our college. She went through the application process, the benefits of honors for the students, and the process our college goes through. The benefits are that a student can put honors on their resume; it helps to integrate independent study projects and a creative component into the college program; and to complete an undergraduate research project and get credit for it. The committee wants to enforce that within the last 2 semesters a student must have a program of study and project title listed. The committee entered into a discussion on the possibility of raising the current GPA requirement of 3.35 to a 3.50 to get accepted into the program. At this time university wide there is 25% of our students that have a 3.35 and above. There is currently 10% of our student's university wide at a 3.50. The committee would like to know what type of student the honors program would like to attract? Is it an elitist group or one that challenges student to go above and beyond?

The meeting adjourned at 11:55.