

**USU ACADEMIC STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE
of the EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE**

Minutes for November 8, 2004

Present: Jeffrey Walters (Chair), Vicki Allan, Stan Allen, Scot Allgood,

Janalee Johnson (sub), Helga Van Miegroet, John Mortensen,

Sydney Peterson, Weldon Sleight, Paul Wheeler

Absent: Richley Crapo, Heidi Evans

Excused: Heidi Beck, Dwight Israelsen

Chairman Jeff Walters called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in Ag Sci 241.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the October 11, 2004 ASC meeting: Helga Van Miegroet inquired as to why the minutes had not been emailed to her. Other members voiced the same concern. It was explained that the October minutes could be read from the web site <http://www.usu.edu/epc/academicstandards/index.html>. Minutes were photo copied and given to the members. Weldon Sleight moved and Helga Van Miegroet seconded the motion that the minutes should be approved. The motion was adopted.

2. Follow-up on Committee actions: At its November 4 meeting the EPC accepted the recommendations of the ASC with respect to the process for evaluating transfer credit from other-accredited institutions, the impact of state mandates on course repeat policy, and the revised policy on credit by examination and course credit in the same subject area.

3. Definition of “Good Standing”: John Mortensen reported that it is planned that students in the Undeclared program will be required to attain GPAs of 2.25 and 2.50 as they accumulate credits within the program so that they will be able to make a smooth and successful transition once they declare a major, and that the maximum limit of 60 credits while undeclared will be strictly adhered to. This should resolve many of the concerns the ASC has articulated about the problems posed by a University definition of a 2.0 GPA for academic Good Standing and the higher GPA standards for graduation in most degree programs. Sydney Peterson added that efforts are being made to facilitate accommodation of a more diverse range of students in the Interdisciplinary Studies major, which does have a 2.0 GPA standard for graduation.

4. Academic accommodation for students fulfilling civic or military obligations: Heidi Evans was not in attendance, so the Committee received no update on the ASUSU’s deliberations on this issue or its current status with them. Vice Provost Joyce Kinkead has indicated that the concerns that have been expressed by the students could probably be addressed within the scope of the existing incomplete policy. John Mortensen felt it might require an extension beyond the one-year limit for resolving incomplete grades that is specified by the current policy. It was suggested that this issue be carried over to a future meeting.

5. Simultaneous awarding of multiple bachelor's degrees: Janalee Johnson indicated that if a student simultaneously earned two bachelor's degrees with separate designations, such as a BFA and a BS, it is necessary to award two bachelor's degree diplomas. This represents an exception to the stated policy that a student who earns two bachelor's degrees simultaneously should be awarded only a single diploma covering both degrees (dual bachelor's degree). John Mortensen felt the policy needed to be modified. The *dual* degree means working on two degrees at the same time, but receiving only one diploma. To receive a second bachelor's degree one must have been awarded one of them before a second could be completed. A *composite* bachelor's degree means one degree with mixed courses from two majors, but not fulfilling all the requirements of each of them, and is counted as a single bachelor's degree. If a student has two separate majors or dual majors the policy is to award a single diploma if they are completed at the same time. A second bachelor's degree with 30 credits above the first one can be awarded. However, the departments control the final decision concerning a dual degree. Sydney Peterson wondered how big a problem this was. Janalee Johnson indicated that the system cannot post dual degrees, but can for two bachelor's degrees. Paul Wheeler recommended that dual majors receive two separate diplomas. The student would be required to fulfill all requirements of each major. Vicki Allen seconded the motion. John Mortensen felt that the Committee required further information on this issue before taking action, and moved to postpone consideration of the pending motion until the next meeting so that the Committee could receive feedback from advisors. Sydney Peterson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Weldon Sleight proposed the dual major be dropped and that candidates who work on a second bachelor's degree simultaneously be awarded separate and simultaneous diplomas for each if they meet the requirement of completing at least 30 credits beyond the first degree (which would mean a total of at least 150 credits for two bachelor's degrees). The advisor(s) would need to approve the fulfillment of requirements for each of them. Scot Allgood felt the committee should check with the Regent's policy based on situations that had arisen in his college, and Sydney Peterson said she would check on it.

Helga Van Miegroet suggested that the Second Bachelor's Degree policy as stated in the catalog should be amended by striking the sentence "A second bachelor's degree is available only to those on whom a first bachelor's degree has been conferred." Weldon Sleight seconded the motion and it was carried.

John Mortensen moved that students who simultaneously complete the requirements for two bachelor's degree programs with distinct degree designations (e.g., BA, BS, BFA, BLA, BM) should be awarded two diplomas. Stan Allen seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.