

Dr. Dowler

MINUTES

Academic Standards and Events Committee

Meeting of November 16, 1993

Present: C. Anderson, T. Bodnovich, R. Hoover, S. Martinek,
S. Russo, P. Schuster

Guests: Mary Bodnovich, Harold Yiannaki

1. Meeting called to order 4:00 p.m.
2. Harold Yiannaki provided an Enrollment Services perspective of changing to plus/minus grading. The following points were made:
 - a) This issue has been discussed twice before and dropped due to lack of a perceived benefit.
 - b) Many computer systems will be affected, including: Student Report Cards, Student Permanent Records, and Course Grade Scanning. Computer programming changes will be required in these systems.
 - c) Work is currently being performed on three major computing systems: Bursars, Direct Access Registration, and Alumni Fund Raising. A reallocation of resources would be required for work on a plus/minus grading system.
 - d) Some forms will need redesigned, including: the Student Transcript and the Course Grade Scan Sheet.
 - e) Sister institutions in the region which have previously converted to a plus/minus grading system could be contacted. They could be a source of rationale, experiences, expenses, and benefits involved in a conversion.
 - f) The committee should try to identify which students would benefit and which students would not benefit. Is this equitable for all students?
 - g) Financial aid might be affected. This could have an affect on YSU Foundation scholarships.
 - h) Academic standing will need to be considered.
 - i) Credit/no credit grading will need to be considered.
 - j) The Graduate Council should be informed at some point. As a member of the Graduate Council, R. Hoover can keep them informed.
 - k) The committee should weigh the perceived benefits against the perceived costs.
3. Harold Yiannaki will inform the Computer Center of our study.
4. For the January meeting, Mary Bodnovich will contact sister institutions and compile a listing of their rationale, experiences, expenses, and benefits of

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- converting or not converting to plus/minus grading. If possible, a listing of grade distributions before and after converting will be assembled.
5. S. Russo reported that Akron, Ohio State, Ohio University, and Theil currently use plus/minus grading. Kent does not use plus/minus grading.
 6. The committee thanked Mary and Harold for their efforts; they left at 4:30 p.m.
 7. Some perceived benefits of plus/minus grading were identified:
 - a) more discriminating power in assigning grades
 - b) greater grade dispersion
 - c) deflation of grades
 - d) more accurate reflection of students' performance
 8. R. Hoover will investigate additional benefits and drawbacks for the January meeting.
 9. T. Bodnovich will contact Dr. LaLumia regarding LaLumia's plus/minus grading questionnaire. Bodnovich will ask LaLumia to circulate the questionnaire among committee members for their comments prior to January, and prior to sending it to the faculty.
 10. T. Bodnovich informed the committee that Dr. Jenkins is now aware of the committee's interest in the review of the general education requirements (GER). Jenkins has stated that the committee will be invited to participate, but that participation is currently premature. The review of GER will be a multi-year task, so the committee may not be involved until the following academic year.

Bodnovich will request that Dr. Stephanie Tingley bring the committee up to date on GER at our next meeting in January.
 11. T. Bodnovich will look into proposed commencement ceremony changes. Bodnovich will send Dr. Mapley a memo requesting that the committee be involved in any changes.
 12. Next meeting will be in January. Time to be announced.
 13. Meeting adjourned 5:10 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Tom Bodnovich,
Computer & Information Sciences