Thursday, November 18, 2021

In Attendance: Kim Gower (Chair), Shumona Dasgupta (Secretary), John Broome, Michael Benson, Paul Fallon, Wes Hillard, Debra Schleef and Rita Dunston

Agenda:

1. Call to Order: 4:16pm
2. Minutes from October for approval
3. New Business:

* 4.1 Introduce and welcome students Sarah Bazemore and Kaylah Lightfoot.
* 4.2 -Review COE Entrance Requirement Changes (please see attached document). The committee also discussed the language in the graduate catalog which was missing information regarding acceptance of transfer credits into the post-baccalaureate program pathways. The new language for the 2022-2023 catalog is attached. The proposed new language for the 2022-23 catalog was approved unanimously.
* 4.3- Review COB Entrance Requirement Changes (please see attached document). Dr. Kim Gower spoke about the rationale for a change in the COB Major Declaration Policy and the need to streamline the process. Wes Hillard also spoke. The proposed language for the change in entrance requirements was discussed and gently revised. The proposal now reads: To be admitted to the College of Business, students must have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better, and a grade of “C” or higher in ACCT 102, and have meet the criteria for major declaration set forth in the academic catalogue. The COB Entrance Requirement changes passed unanimously.
* 4.4 Kaylah Lightfoot spoke at length about UMW’s withdrawal policy and the push from SGA that the policy be revised to include late withdrawal to the end of the semester given the impact of COVID on our students. The SGA committee has also met with Tim O Donnell.

A lengthy discussion ensued. According to Rita Dunston, a lot of students wanted their original grades back after they had already asked for a W the last time around (about 80% wanted their grade back according to Rita). The Registrar’s Office no longer has the staffing to support this labor-intensive process. According to Wes Hillard, as an institution, UMW tries to be as flexible as possible for individual cases (valid reason, documentation etc.). The students may need to be given more information about UMW’s course repeat policy, full semester withdrawal, the existing late withdrawal process and the Academic dispute policy etc. According to Dr. Kim Gower, as a general rule, UMW already has a pretty liberal late withdrawal policy.

It was decided to stay with the current system. There may need to be long term policy changes, including requiring midterm grades. The SGA motion was unanimously tabled for now.

The UAAC has proposed that a formal motion and rationale be presented by the SGA next semester. The committee would like a solid statement from students about what students want to do and would like from faculty.

1. Old Business:
   1. Discuss the J- term faculty survey results
   2. Discuss the Provost’s proposal about semester length changes

According to Debra Schleef, option # 1- would start Dec 27/28. UMW would not have essential staff on campus and we will need to check with SACS about the feasibility of this option.

Option # 2 will involve changing the faculty contract. Faculty may be taken off contract for 2 weeks in January to make up for being on contract through the end of May. Kim and Debra will attend the Dec 01 UFC meeting and present a couple of models and ask UFC whether we want do this or not. Rita Dunston will need to know about the J- term by Fall 2022. A doodle poll about different options for semester length changes will be disseminated soon.

Faculty will be asked to come up with a couple of ideas regarding what we would like from a J- term.

There seems to be a lot of desire for making a J- term happen from the administration and some faculty.

* 1. Confirm UAAC secretary for Spring 2022- the duties will be split between Paul Fallon and John Broome. Melissa is also working on getting a replacement during Dr. Dasgupta’s sabbatical and the calls have been sent out.

Motion to Adjourn: 5:48pm

**UFC Action Items for December 1 UFC Meeting:**