

## **Faculty Policies Minutes--- February 25, 2008**

Attending: Jim Benedict, Rob Bledsoe, Tom Colbert, Tom Crute, Charles Jackson, Stephanie Myers, Carol Rychly, Robert Smalley, Debbie van Tuyl, Steve Weiss. Guest: David Alexander from the Student Government Senate and Kara Mauldin from the Bell Ringer.

David Alexander was present to discuss his proposal that faculty be required to give midterm pass/fail grades. He presented information on other schools that currently give midterm grades. He explained that, despite grade information given by professors prior to midterm, students still do not realistically evaluate their grades. He would like such grades to be used as an advising tool so that the student's instructor or advisor can help students make good decisions about their courses. He also felt that midterm grades would improve retention since students would be less likely to drop out of ASU with a W rather than an F.

The committee expressed doubt that a midterm grade would encourage students to talk to their professors. They were also concerned with several logistical issues, including how to take into consideration dropped and weighted grades, classes (like research or internships) where a midterm grade is not appropriate, how to get the grades out early enough for students to make a decision about dropping before the deadline, and whether pass/fail was sufficient information. On the issue of pass/fail grades, Alexander replied that he agreed that letter grades would be more useful, but thought requiring a letter grade would be too burdensome on the faculty and therefore asked for the simpler report. He also thought midterm grades were needed primarily for freshman and sophomores and did not object to some advanced courses not reporting midterm grades.

The committee was also concerned that midterm grades would result in extra work for the faculty without providing any real benefit. The committee asked Alexander if he could provide any research on the effect of midterm grades. He said that he would find out if any had been done. The committee also considered doing a small-scale study to see if it would be effective here.

The minutes were approved as amended.

At the next faculty meeting, FPC will be bringing the revisions to the Academic Policies and Student Honors and Awards Committee. The revisions are as approved at the previous meeting except for an amendment to the Student Honors and Awards Committee that corrects Helen Hendee's title. In addition, we have asked Wally Evans to give a presentation on the upcoming changes to the core curriculum.

A first version for the program to help the committee on committees make committee assignments will be previewed this week.

The committee to revise the Student Government Constitution has met and accomplished a substantial amount of work, much of which was including bylaws into the actual constitution. However there is still much work to be done.

The committee agreed to take a "spring pause" on March 10 and not meet.

Myers will bring treats next week.