

# ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

APRIL 10, 2019

*College of Science Conference Room, North End Center 4302*

Members Present: Robin Panneton (Chair), Caroline Leeth, Brittany Boitnott, Katie Wells (representative for Lara Khansa), Jennifer Carr (representative for Susan Sumner)

Members Absent: Susan Sumner, Bevlee Watford

Guests Present: Deborah Smith and Michael Brown (Services for Students with Disabilities)

Recorder: Amber Robinson, *Administrative Assistant, College of Science*

*Robin Panneton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM*

Introductions and brief overview of previous meetings.

## **New Business:**

- I. Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) perspective and background:
  - a. SSD talked about their academic relief process
    - i. ADA requires that the process is interactive, individualized, and applied consistently (e.g., If one college grants academic relief for a disability but another college does not grant it for the same disability then that could potentially expose the University to legal action).
    - ii. Academic relief for SSD is an accommodation under ADA (i.e., the accommodation is being able to apply for academic relief; the right to apply is an accommodation)
  - b. SSD explains the process step by step to the student before any paperwork is ever filled out. They review the academic relief form with the students before giving it to them. At this meeting the student is provided with the instructions for the process. This document also gives an overview of the SSD policy as well. Student must make a connection between their disability and their request for academic relief.
  - c. SSD has a committee that looks at all academic relief requests and decides to support or not support the request based on the documentation and evidence provided that a disability did impact academic performance.
  - d. SSD has supported more than one academic relief for a student but it is part of their policy that the second time is has to be a different disability and a different justification.
  - e. Will not go back and academically relieve farther back than the last 2 semesters of enrollment.
  - f. SSD likes the terminology “Justified Academic Assistance” or “Justified Withdrawal” (as a complement to Academic Relief).

II. Are there other services that teach students how to deal with their anxiety, depression, etc.?

1. Briefly discussed the report from the Mental Health Task Force
2. Briefly discussed the timing and intent of using W for course performance