

## ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

April 6, 2022

Zoom Meeting from 2-3 p.m.

Members Present: Cassandra Garcia, Keith Goyne (Chair), Robin Panneton, Susan Sumner, Keith Thompson

Members Absent: Kimberly Smith

Recorder: Arlice Banks, Executive Administrative Assistant, College of Natural Resources and Environment

*Keith Goyne (Chair) called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.*

### **I. Review and vote upon**

- A. The March 16, 2022 meeting minutes were approved without modification.

### **II. Review and approve the agenda**

- A. The April 6, 2022 agenda was approved without modification.

### **III. Old Business**

- A. AR Policy
  - 1. On March 28, the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies (CUSP) approved the Academic Relief Policy and forwarded it to University Counsel.
- B. Discussion about necessary changes to PPM 196.
  - 1. Points from the last meeting
    - a) The committee agreed it might be best to permit students to use W grades after the posting of final grades.
    - b) The committee believes that the W grade system might work well if opened on the last day of classes.
    - c) The committee suggests limiting the use of a W for courses with C- or lower grade could help students progress toward their degree—awaiting confirmation from Rick Sparks about programming for specific majors that might require an exception to this rule.
  - 2. Discussion about the number of Ws afforded to students and division of Ws for use in 1000/2000 and 3000/4000 level courses (i.e., 2 and 2 structure)
    - a) It was suggested that keeping the three Ws would be easier for the students and advisors.
    - b) After much discussion, the committee indicated that it might be best to revise PPM 196 to allow no more than two Ws to be used in one semester.

3. Discussion about the timing of when to use a W (e.g., challenges with holiday and summer breaks, prerequisite courses, and suspension/probation)
  - a) What would be the cut-off time for students to submit a W request for a semester?
  - b) A committee member stated that the first day of the next semester would give students time to have those conversations with advisors.
  - c) A committee member indicated that there might be financial aid questions, Policy 91, and academic suspension issues. Students will want to use Ws to prevent these situations, but that will press them to do it earlier.
  - d) Challenges with prerequisite course requirements associated with the next term were discussed.
  - e) A committee member inquired if the final date for students to decide on the use of a W should be a little earlier so students can consider finances associated with the semester (full-time status vs. part-time status)?
  - f) It was stated that the committee needs to obtain feedback from constituencies before proceeding much further.
  - g) It was suggested that a survey be created and relevant constituent groups were discussed (associate deans, Bursar's Office, advisors, etc.)
  - h) Keith Thompson volunteered to work on a list of questions before the next committee meeting.

#### **IV. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.