

Deans Council Notes
January 5, 2005

Tammy Delvendahl said that the official minutes that she takes will be posted online around January 18th, 2005.

Dr. Menigall visited the meeting and reported that student complaints against the faculty, that her department hears, have increased approximately three-fold from this past year. (She reported there were four complaints last year at this time compared to the twelve this year).

She broke the complaints down into three types: Inappropriate comments, inappropriate touching, and not sticking to syllabus.

All the complaints Dr. Menigall reported were NOT from students dealing with their current professors but perhaps former professors.

Inappropriate comments would include calling someone “sweetie” or “honey.” This complaint would also include comments like, “You are looking nice today” or asking about racial heritage.

Inappropriate touching could include touching a student in an attempt to comfort them.

Not sticking to syllabus would include things like taking off five points for an assignment being turned in late when it was not stated on the syllabus or taking seven points off when the syllabus says only five points would be taken off.

The Dean’s discussed this issue and Dr. Menigall will create a document explaining the complaints and this document could be used as talking points in department meetings or college meetings.

Dr Buttery brought up the need to define a policy concerning “Institutional Sanctioned Absences.” The purpose of this policy would define certain absences that faculty would have to provide makeup tests or work around the student missing assignment due dates. One of the Dean’s reported that an athlete had two pop quizzes given while he was at away games and was not allowed to make them up since the syllabus stated “no make up tests will be given.” As a result the athlete failed his class. Dr Buttery will write up a proposed policy and report on January 12, 2005.

Carmen Reagan visited the meeting and asked what college/school the Master’s in Professional Studies proposal she is working on, should be the conferring school. The Dean’s voted to propose the program be in the Professional Programs and Social Science College.

Stan Groppe and Sheila Bryant brought forth a proposal to give those students who have contracted to get their degrees strictly online a priority to register for online courses over students who are not strictly online. The Deans accepted this proposal to allow online students a priority registration time before other students to register for just online courses. If the online student misses their priority time, they are at the mercy of what is available.

The Academic Deans were asked to provide a preliminary report on January 12th concerning hybrid classes. This would help with room scheduling. An example of hybrid classes would have two classes using the same room. Class 1 meets on Tuesday in room A, Class 2 meets online on Tuesday. On Thursday, Class 1 meets online and Class 2 meets in Room A.

Stan Groppe reported he has received approximately 25-30 applications for e-Faculty. Any applications that meet qualifications are passed onto the appropriate Department chair for further review and potential hiring.

Houston Davis asked the Dean's to remind their faculty to give any responses to the reorganization of DSP into Academic Advising to him.

Deborah Fetch reported the library will be piloting a new print cost recovery system. When an item is to be printed, the patron will be required to go to a print release station to start the printing.

The Library will also be cutting off bookreq on February 15th for ordering. Any money not allocated by that date will be moved to other departments to purchase their materials. A report will be provided by Friday, January 21, 2005 to Department chairs as to status of money unspent and spent.

Charles Pinder reported that graduate applications are up. He also mentioned that APSU's distribution of graduate assistants does not match the national average. The national average is 20% of graduate students are GA's. With APSU's 600 graduate students, there should be about 120 GA's. APSU currently has only about 60 GA's. Also some departments seem to have a greater percent of GA's than they should have based on percentage of their graduate students in programs.

Sheila Bryant reported that at the end of Fall Semester, there were still 438 grades not posted by Saturday, 18 December cutoff time. This certainly is better than the 800+ from Fall 2003 but still 438 too many.

Gaines Hunt reported that the Med Tech program lost another faculty member so they are down to two people.