

All College Council
Dec. 10, 2020
Via Google Meets

Present: Joe Brewer, Josie Milliken (for Brooke Anderson), Jim Craig, Morgan Phillips, Sean Mendoza, Gloria Coronado, Mike Lopez, Sage Hawkins, Lisa Brosky

AP 1.01.03 - Discussion

Joe Brewer proposed that the AP be pulled from the process to allow the All College Council to review it, discuss it, and make any recommendations to the Chancellor. "What motivated me was a concern among faculty senate officers and members that this very important new AP needed more work and that that work would take discussion and collaboration, not just comments given in the normal course of AP adoption."

An AP governing SOPs is definitely needed, and good progress has been made on it. There is no doubt that this will slow down the development and adoption of such an AP. In this case, I and others believe that a pause will be good for the development of this policy.

A good way to conduct this discussion and collaboration was to bring together faculty stakeholders, and perhaps others, with Seth Shippee. This might be the recommendation of ACC, or Faculty Senate and Seth might meet before then. Seth had involved faculty senators in an early stakeholder meeting many months ago. This would be a continuation.

Accelerated degree program continued discussion.

Joe Brewer suggested and others agreed that focusing the recommendation on the benefits to students rather than attempting recommend or shape a specific program. Benefits include saving money and earning a credential more quickly.

Jim Craig agreed and suggested that there were alternatives to an accelerated degree program that could have the same benefits for students such as microcredentials and stackable credentials that get students skills they need to go to work but allow them continue to build on their educations.

Sage Hawkins issued a cautionary note about students who may not be able to or would not have a comfort level with moving through a program so quickly. She wanted to ensure that any accelerated programs were optional.

Lisa Brosky agreed to shape a recommendation to the Chancellor for Council review.

Vaccinations

Discussions began with concerns that a vaccine could be mandatory, which was seen as non-starter. It was agreed that motivating and even incentivizing participation would be a better approach.

The larger discussion surrounded what a return to campus could like in a vaccinated environment.

Jim: Tremendous debate within the division about what we do going forward when vaccinations are in place ... do we every go back to what we had before? Should we keep virtual instruction around for a lot longer or from here on out? If so how much virtual do we do? Do we look at high-flex where some students in a class and some students are at home? We want the experience of the students to be successful.

The group agree there were multiple challenges:

Regardless of the pandemic, more instruction is moving to online, virtual and high-flex. But we don't have a good measure of what students think about it. Anecdotally we know some love virtual and some hate it. But there is no good tool for a comprehensive assessment. We have nothing to go on right now.

There were concerns about how students were performing academically.

Morgan Phillips: This situation has forced us to look at things a lot of different ways but alignment is an issue. Faculty and students are in classes that they might not necessarily think works the best for that class. Students are forced to take classes virtually when they would prefer online or they cannot or must go to the campuses. We must get to the point where we can better align: we are teaching the class as it should be taught; students are in formats where they can be successful. As things match up, that is where we will see our success. Until we get to the point where we can communicate "this is how this class, program, subject is supposed to work," we aren't going to be successful with that.

For our pathways, that is the one piece we are still missing. We tell student here is what you should take Semester 1, 2, 3 and 4 but we don't have a schedule that is keyed to the pathway. And now, they have to classes in take them in whatever format the college has thrown out there.

Gloria Coronado said her experience with a hybrid class at the University of Arizona had been positive and positive for other students who could opt in virtually if they had issues getting to class, such as child care issues.

Sean Mendoza offered that the college is moving into environment that is about flexibility and is demanding it students, business partners and others.

Josie Milliken: One of the struggles is how we adapt and meet the students' needs in a world that has a lot of great online programs that are affordable. We are not flexible for a number of reasons, including accreditation, state requirements and other factors.

All agreed that this was an area that need immediate and more intense scrutiny.

Student Barriers

Sage reminded the Council of the issues facing students in the current environment include food and housing insecurities, lack technology or access to wi-fi and asked members to continue to focus on those needs.