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Academic Affairs Committee Minutes

Faculty Senate

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2-16-2023

### February 2023 Academic Affairs Minutes

University of Nebraska at Kearney Academic Affairs Committee

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**Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee  
Minutes from Meeting  
Thursday, February 16, 2023  
Meeting held via Zoom**

**Present:** Debbie Bridges (CBT), Ralph Hanson (CAS), Julie Shaffer (CAS), Kate Heelan (COE), Bailey Koch (COE), Rachel Hammer (LIB), Chance Bell (FS), Joel Cardenas (AA), Lisa Neal (REG), Mark Ellis (AA)

**Absent:** Steve Hall (CBT), Olivia Koenig (Student Senate); Zoie Jacobsen (Student Senate)

**Guests:** Jordan McCoy; Marisa Dixon

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Bridges called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Bridges welcomed Committee members and requested a motion to approve the agenda. Shaffer (Hanson) moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Discussion moved to agenda items #182 - #187. Bridges noted that the subcommittee did not meet last week due to the limited scope of the agenda (plus the Committee just met the end of January). Bridges noted that the agenda items were all routine. Hanson (Koch) moved to approve agenda items #182 - #187. Motion carried.

Bridges provided an update on the Finals Week Policy and Attendance Policy (from January meeting). The Finals Week Policy has been submitted to SVCASA Majocha and expect to have her decision by end of the month. The Attendance Policy has been sent back to the ad-hoc FS committee for revision; still waiting to receive the revised language.

Discussion turned to the proposed change to Graduate Division Course policy in catalog. Bridges reminded the Committee that the proposal was sent out to campus and the College Ed Policy / Academic Affairs Committees for review and input. Bridges noted that the feedback received thus far indicated support for the proposal. Hanson (Bell) moved to approve the Graduate Division Course Policy. Motion carried.

Bridges presented the proposal to require midterm grade reports for every student in every class and asked Neal to outline the proposal. Neal discussed a possible midterm grade submission required of all faculty on campus. The Registrar's Office could only roll this out for full semester classes. The ultimate goal is that it would improve student success as students would see this grade in MyBlue and reach out for help. Bridges asked how this differs from Early Warning Referrals regarding whether or not students would heed the warning. Neal clarified this grade entry would be required. This would not impact the overall GPA for the students. Grade checks could then be run through the Registrar rather than faculty. The committee agrees it would be important to do this requirement in a timely manner each semester so students could drop a course and add courses that begin in the final weeks of the semester. The committee requested the language be changed to the end of the sixth week instead of the eighth so students have time to either improve their grades or drop a course. "Early term" or "Six week grade report" were suggested for language. Shaffer (Hanson) moved to take suggestions based upon today's discussion and send the updated proposal to campus for feedback. Motion carried.

Discussion turned to course syllabi and what the Committee wants to do regarding syllabi submitted through the CIM system. Bridges requested the Committee review the syllabus checklist and provide feedback; goal is to discuss at next meeting.

Bridges reminded the Committee that quick turnaround on approving the minutes is needed to meet Faculty Senate's submission deadline for the March packet– so please watch email and act on the minutes as soon as possible.

Hanson (Shaffer) moved adjournment. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Hanson, Secretary

Approved via email, February 20, 2023

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2022-2023 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Academic Affairs Subcommittee 2/8/2023

Academic Affairs Full Committee 2/16/2023

NUMBER, REQUEST, LEVEL, SPECIFIC REQUEST, DEGREE/COURSE, PROGRAM/COURSE, TITLE, DEPT, COL, REASON

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#182, Create, Course, PHIL 125, Introduction to Ethics and Health Care, PHIL, CASC, With the increasing number of students coming to UNK in the Health Sciences and related fields concerned with physical well-being, there is both an increased need and an increased interest in the ethical formation of future health care practitioners. This introductory level ethics course will be tailored to the ethical issues they will face.

#183, Create, Course, PHIL 150, The Joy of Sales Resistance, PHIL, CASC, This course was previously one of the Portal courses (PHIL 188) that we taught under the previous General Studies Program. It was a very successful course, and we want to be able to continue to offer it under the new General Studies Program in the LOPER 6 (Humanities) category. The topic--distinguishing between human needs and wants--is relevant and practical for students, both personally and societally, as they face a future in which sustainability, individual responsibility and integrity, and the ability to make good judgments for living will all be necessary for the good life.

#184, Alter, Course, Number, General Studies Status, Catalog Description, PHIL 205, Social and Political Philosophy, PHIL, CASC, We currently have a course of the same name but numbered PHIL 305. However, because the course is somewhat cross-disciplinary (Philosophy and Politics) and would be of interest to a broader range of students than just Philosophy minors, we have revised it and renumbered it in order to include it as an option in the LOPER 6 (Humanities) category of General Studies; Change course number, Old Value: 305, New Value: 205; Change General Studies Status, Old Value: No, New Value: Yes; Change catalog description, Old Value: Study of the fundamental principles of political and social organization, and the concepts of community, justice, law and economy, New Value: This course will be a close study of the fundamental principles of political and social organization, focusing especially on the investigation of the concepts of community, justice, law, and economy.

#185, Alter, Course, Number, General Studies Status, Catalog Description, PHIL 209, Philosophy of Mind, PHIL, CASC, We currently have a course of the same name but numbered PHIL 309. However, because the course is somewhat cross-disciplinary (Philosophy and Psychology) and would be of interest to a broader range of students than just Philosophy minors, we have revised it and renumbered it in order to include it as an option in the LOPER 6 (Humanities) category of General Studies; Change course number, Old Value: 309, New Value: 209; Change General Studies Status, Old Value: No, New Value: Yes; Change catalog description, Old Value: Critical analysis of philosophical ideas of concepts such as perception, sensation, emotion, action and will, New Value: This course will be a critical analysis of the most prominent philosophical ideas of concepts such as thought, belief, perception, sensation, emotion, action and will.

#186, Alter, Course, Number, General Studies Status, Catalog Description, PHIL 214, Philosophy of Religion: Reason and Faith, PHIL, CASC, We currently have a course of the same name but numbered PHIL 314. However, because the course is somewhat cross-disciplinary (Philosophy and Religion) and would be of interest to a broader range of students than just Philosophy minors, we have revised it and renumbered it in order to include it as an option in the LOPER 6 (Humanities) category of General

Studies; Change course number, Old Value: 314, New Value: 214; Change General Studies Status, Old Value: No, New Value: Yes; Change catalog description, Old Value: Problems concerning religious language, the nature and existence of God, and the purpose and meaning of religious life, including criticism thereof, New Value: This course will raise and address problems concerning religious language, the nature and existence of God (or gods), and the purpose and meaning of living a religious life, including criticism thereof.

#187, Alter, Course, Number, General Studies Status, PHIL 261, Philosophy of Science, PHIL, CASC, We currently have a course of the same name but numbered PHIL 360. However, because the course is somewhat cross-disciplinary (Philosophy and Science) and would be of interest to a broader range of students than just Philosophy minors, we have revised it and renumbered it in order to include it as an option in the LOPER 6 (Humanities) category of General Studies; Change course number, Old Value: 360, New Value: 261; Change General Studies Status, Old Value: No, New Value: Yes.

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Transcript of approved Graduate Division Courses policy (catalog):

#### Graduate Division Courses

Graduate courses are numbered from 800 to 999. A senior student pursuing graduate coursework while completing an undergraduate degree is considered an undergraduate student. Seniors at an accredited institution who have obtained in advance the approval of the student's advisor, the instructor or department chair, and the Dean for Graduate Studies may receive up to 12 hours of credit for graduate courses taken at any campus of the University of Nebraska System in addition to the courses necessary to complete their undergraduate work, provided that such credits are earned within the 12 months prior to receipt of the baccalaureate. Graduate courses cannot be taken to complete the Bachelor's Degree requirements unless they have declared an accelerated graduate program.

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Transcript of Feedback on Undergraduate Catalog - Graduate Division Courses Policy proposal:

**CAS Ed Policy Committee:** CAS Ed Policy is concerned that the policy restricts seniors who are advanced and may want to take a graduate class as an undergraduate student and have it count towards their bachelor's degree requirements. It seems to us that allowing a student who has 117 credits say and wants to take a graduate class to fulfill the last three credits is a smart move rather than restricting this opportunity. If possible, we should encourage our excellent senior students to explore a graduate class if they want and have it count towards graduation with their BA/BS if they desire to do so. Doing so could encourage a student to pursue graduate school, whether at UNK, another campus in the NU system, or elsewhere. We acknowledge that there may be reasons for the restriction such as undergrads not being able to pay graduate tuition for a class that counts towards BA/BS requirements that preclude our suggestion, but we wanted to voice an option that we see as creating additional opportunities for our students.

**CBT Academic Affairs Committee:** Committee discussed the proposal at the February 7, 2023 meeting. Committee reported that minimal feedback had been received thus far; consensus of Committee is that little to indicate broad support or broad opposition to the proposed change.

#### **COE: Feedback received from individual departments**

**CSPFS:** Our department meeting was Wednesday. Faculty were supportive of the accelerated program and thought (especially in the Counseling program) it could enhance recruitment into their programs. The 400/800 issue is something that could probably use more clarification. I assumed this applied to those courses, but if it doesn't, the recruitment issue isn't fully supported.

**CDIS:** One faculty member asked: "Just to double check, this would not affect PI courses that have a 400 and an 800, number right? Because if it does, that would impact all our elective courses and

we'd have even more trouble filling up our summer classes ... then in that case, I would not be ok with it! :) " Otherwise, they indicated receiving emails from two faculty support this document.

**TE:** Has heard from two people. One communicated support. The other had concerns and indicated they have already expressed those concerns to Dean Ellis.

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