

Minutes
Academic Policies and Standards Committee Special Meeting
November 20, 2020

In attendance: Suzeanne Benet, Robert Beasecker, Todd Carlson, Nagnon Diarrassouba, Lori Koste, Kay Losey, Autumn Mueller, Carolyn Shapiro, Dianne Slager, Kristen Vu, Mikhila Wildey, Raymond Higbea

Guests: Chiara Nicholas (student senate), Cameron Zbikowski (student senate), Nick Raak (student senate), Felix Ngassa (ECS), Pam Wells (Registrar Office).

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m.

- I. **Review of the minutes from the Nov 5 meeting.**
Raymond Higbea motion to approved minutes from 11.5.2020
Nagnon Diarrassouba Seconding.
Minutes were approved unanimously.
- II. **Discussion of new mandate (Support of Alternative Methods to Compensate for Elimination of Spring) from ECS with due date of 11.18.2020-that APSC address the presented options and alternatives as noted in attached document**
Concerns raised F20.01 from student senate about the elimination of spring break. A petition was signed by 15% of the student body. Concern that student senate was not involved in the original decision.
Primary points:
C. Zbikowski: reported that perceived impact would increase mental strain for students, did not give voice to student representatives in discussion, and noted a higher than normal withdrawal rate already noted in under-graduate populations.
K. Vu for APSC: reported that perceived impact would permit students 2 weeks to quarantine and increase testing following Christmas break, minimize student travel during spring break to limit transmission risk and improve safety.

Goal is to discuss concerns/options from ECS.

1. Review of summarized ECS comments was presented by K. Vu, noting that there was very limited support for scheduling a one week spring break. Review of both positive and negative comments regarding documented alternatives (attached).

2. P. Wells noted difficulties to newly altering finals schedule at this point in time.

3. Committee comments:

-L. Koste-reviewed MSU-expressed concern that the random day scheduling could create lots of problems for faculty and students as it would be difficult for faculty to coordinate. How can we lend emotional support to students?

-K. Losey-related her departmental discussions about supporting students through this time.

Discussion about MSU's random day schedule-how would students feel like this was a break?

-N. Diarrassouba noted his department (education), voices support for a spring break.
T. Carlson-His department recommends week of lower activity one week, if possible, for mental health of faculty and students. Not mandatory, dependent on lab schedule.
K. Vu-notes as CHS representative, encourages each college/department consider their students and make individual unit decisions.
M. Wildey-CLAS/Psych. Doesn't see one size fits all solution. How can individual faculty schedule some type of break for their courses? Echoed need to lend emotional support to students.
C. Zbikowski-Noted that LIFT evaluations "won't be done". Clarification from S. Benet that LIFT will continue, but not be included in faculty reviews. K. Vu validates that these should be an opportunity for students to give feedback about Fall issues.
R. Higbea -College of Public Service, discussed balance between safety and mental health.
C. Shapiro-Shapin-encouraged trust, care, and flexibility.
S. Benet-how to schedule breaks, supports trust, care flexibility, notes that delaying deadlines can also create additional stressors, so be mindful. Discussion of whether or not grading deadlines could be extended for faculty in Winter, 2021.
C. Zbikowski-wondered if threshold for incomplete could be altered to facilitate this option for students. P. Wells in response discussed that faculty already have significant flexibility.
A. Mueller-Poly-sci-also encourages flexibility in deadlines etc.
D. Slager-KCON-consider working stress, clinical stress along with emotional due to stress. KCON students-working mandated overtime, colleague deaths, keep safety as priority.
F. Ngassa-Discussed this past semester, and various coping strategies that people used. F. Ngassa-Encouraged potential strategies of brief time off versus entire week.
F. Ngassa-Responses to mid-week 1-2 day break proposal (no assignments): students are supportive, though they don't feel like it will be much of a break, faculty felt difficult to incorporate without wreaking havoc on schedules due to compressed semester timeline. Trust, Care, Flexibility, and Safety must be tantamount.

4. Potential compromises:

1. Alter exams by starting 1 day later: student input: might be helpful (C. Nicholas, N. Raak)
2. Consider moving large final assignments to earlier in semester
3. Consider extending faculty grade submission requirement by 12 hours.

5. Motions:

1. N. Diarrassouba makes a motion that we establish a full week without any deadlines or assignments. Seconded by R. Higbea. Discussion-L. Koste, T. Carlson, K. Vu, K. Losey: 1 for, 9 against, 0 abstentions.
2. L. Koste makes a motion that we not institute two "reading days" due to the difficulty of scheduling across departments. Seconded by R. Higbea. Discussion by various members including provost office. 9 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions.
3. D. Slager makes a motion that we encourage faculty/departments and colleges to consider two flexible days (where classes continue, but no due dates), and consider assignments and



their due dates with the goal of trust, care, flexibility, and safety with consideration of faculty and student stressors. Seconded N. Diarrassouba, 10 In favor:, 0-opposed, 0 abstentions
4. Motion to extend meeting: L. Koste, second: D. Slager-unanimously approved
Recommendations: Further that FTLC increase offerings and assistance to faculty for online teaching. Chair, K. Vu, will draft a response to student concerns and submit this to ECS.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.