



Academic Policies and Standards Committee

Kristen Vu, Chair 2020-2021

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2021

9 AM – 11 AM EST

Online: <https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/91127849874>

Present:

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Carlson, Todd (recording)
- Losey, Kay
- Shapiro-Shapin, Carolyn
- Wildey, Mikhila

Seidman College of Business

- Koste, Lori

College of Community and Public Service

- Higbea, Raymond

College of Education

- Diarrassouba, Nagnon

Padnos College of Engineering and Computing

- Corneal, Lindsay

College of Health Professions

- Vu, Kristen (Chair)

Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

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Kirkhof College of Nursing

- Slager, Dianne

University Libraries

- Beasecker, Robert

At Large - Elected by and from UAS

- Vacant

Student Representatives

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Ex officio, non-voting

- Benet, Suzanne - Provost Designee

Visitor

- Schendel, Ellen
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The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM

I. Volunteers for Chair Position: 2021-2022

The Chair announced that she will not be on the committee again next year and asked for volunteers to nominate themselves to serve as chair next year. She gave an overview of the duties of the chair and offered to orient the chair-elect during this semester. No nominations were offered.



II. Introduction of C/NC Retroactive Changes - Potential Charge

There was a brief discussion of a U of M policy to allow students to retroactively change grades to Credit/No Credit for courses taken during the Covid pandemic. It was announced that a charge for the APSC to evaluate this policy for GVSU may be forthcoming from ECS. Issues that may need to be studied were identified:

- How would this impact programs that required grades? The implications of converting a grade to C/NC need to be communicated.
- Would it be desirable to have a policy that also allows the reverse – permitting a C/NC grade to revert to a letter grade? The current policy is clear that this is not possible.

III. Academic Forgiveness Policy – Academic Integrity Grades

It has been observed that the recently-enacted Academic Forgiveness policy, would potentially allow a student to have a failing grade forgiven, even if it was awarded due to academic dishonesty. The chair asked if it was the committee's intent to allow this or if it were simply an oversight. The consensus of the committee was that that the Grade Forgiveness Policy should be amended to state that grades impacted by academic dishonesty would not be eligible for appeal, but that we should be sure that there would be mechanisms in place to allow the policy to be implemented. There was concern that confidentiality rules may not allow the committees responsible for adjudicating academic dishonesty to communicate information to the committee evaluating academic forgiveness. It was suggested that the records office could develop a way to indicate that a grade was awarded due to academic dishonesty in student records. Suzanne offered to discuss these concerns with the relevant committees and University counsel.



IV. Evaluating Pilot Programs for Undergraduate Prior Learning Credit (PLC)

The chair gave an overview of the benchmark research done by the committee since last meeting:

- It was found that 17 of 26 schools had an PLC policy, so implementing one at GVSU would not be considered unusual.
- The amount of PLC that could be applied was quite variable.
- Most schools allowed many types of experiences to be applied for PLC.
- Policies emphasized awarding PLC for demonstrated learning rather than just experience.
- PLC was generally awarded as C/NC rather than as a letter grade.
- There is typically a PLC Policy for the whole university.
- Only one school specified a time frame for experience by be eligible for PLC.
- Many programs had fees to have PLC applications evaluated.

Ellen Schendel reviewed the current progress of the PLC Task Force and current pilot programs:

- The LEADS Program has developed the course for portfolio preparation.
- LEADS is working to develop mechanisms for reviewing portfolios and identifying which courses are most likely to received applications for PLC.
- Students will receive academic credit for the portfolio preparation course, even if students don't get PLC for their portfolio.
- The College of Engineering is developing a Credit by Examination Program and making a list of programs and courses that are likely to be eligible for PLC by exam.
- Issues encountered by these groups will be forwarded to the APSC.
- The Dean's Council has been briefed on these initiatives.

The committee discussed at length a number of issues and questions that need to be considered when drafting a PLC policy for GVSU.

- Is charging a fee a disincentive and discriminatory toward underprivileged populations?
- Do students have to pay for the credit in addition to the application fee? If so, how much, and which of these costs could be covered by financial aid?



- Will Colleges, Units, or Programs have any input on how or if PLC will be applied? Deans will need to be involved early in the process. There is likely to be variability in how PLC is handled across the colleges, units, programs, and courses.
- What are the roles of the APSC and the PLC Task Force in this process? To what degree does the APSC need to concern itself with implementation processes vs. drafting a general policy? Communication between the APSC and PLC Task Force will be important.
- How will a PLC Policy interact with other current policies such as credit limit on placement tests and the current graduate policy?
- Do we need to be concerned about graduate programs that may not accept PLC?
- Will PLC be identified in student records?
- Will PLC be treated as internal or external credits?
- Will PLC earned by portfolio and exams be treated the same?
- The process for portfolio evaluation needs to be more thoroughly worked out.
- Will there be a mechanism to verify experience used to apply for PLC?
- A PLC Policy has the potential to offer great benefits to many students.
- Should there be a mechanism to remediate or award partial credit for deficient portfolios?
- Will military experience be accommodated by the PLC Policy?

It was agreed that the next step would be to have the committee members over the next month use the CMU and WMU policies as templates to make specific recommendations for items to include in a draft GVSU PLC Policy. Materials from the PLC Task Force will be posted on the Committee BB site. The Chair will make an on-line document for committee members to enter their comments on specific items in the template. Comments will be used at next month's meeting to begin drafting a policy for GVSU.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 PM.

Minutes recorded by Todd Carlson.