

# Academic Policies and Standards Committee 2009-2010 Annual Report

Prepared by: Cindy Beel-Bates, Chairperson

**The APSC committee members include:** Prince Anyalebechi, Cynthia Beel-Bates, Patricia Clark, Robert Mulder, Rikhei Harris, Lori Koste, Gwyn Madden, Harvey Nikkel, John Shinsky, Peggy Vandenberg, Dan Vaughn. The representative in attendance from the Provost's Office was shared by Sherill Soman and Maria Cimitile.

The Academic Policies and Standards Committee met six times during the 2009-2010 academic year. The APSC addressed specific issues provided by ECS as shared by Kris Mullendore, Chairperson of ECS/UAS. The specific areas discussed with "**Committee Action**" are provided below.

## 1. DOUBLE DEGREES WITH MAJORS

**Charge:** Provost Davis requested APSC explore policy regarding students pursuit of double majors in the same department because GVSU has been increasing the number of programs available to students within the same major department. The four questions posed:

Should GVSU allow double degrees in one major department?

Would current criteria for double degrees need to be updated?

Should there be an institutional process for pursuing a double degree and one major department or should this be handled on an individual basis?

Is there an appeal process if a student is denied a request for a double degree in one major department?

**Committee Action:**

APSC requested the following question of registrar, Jerry Montag

How many double degrees in one major department have been requested in the past five years and in which schools? Maria Cimitile reported back to the committee that according to Jerry Montag, in the past five years there have been five requests, and they have all been within the College of Music.

Given this situation has averaged one person per year for the past 5 years, APSC concludes that at this time there should not be an institutional process for pursuing a double degree in one major department and that each request should continue to be considered on an individual basis with approval by the Provost.

## 2. GRADE INFLATION

**Charge:** Examine the degree to which, if at all, grade inflation occurs at Grand Valley among its various Colleges and programs in comparison with its peer institutions and share those finding with the Executive Committee of the Senate along with any committee recommendations for action.

**Committee Action:**

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Phil Batty, Director of Institutional Analysis, presented "Looking for evidence of grade inflation 2000-2001 thru 2008-2009". This represented an analysis of **only undergraduate grades** at this point. No dramatic change over this decade was

identified. A fairly consistent, but significant positive slope of .003 over the time was noted.

The committee as a whole does not consider the changes over the last decade to be of concern based on the charts and data from Mr. Batty. The following motion was unanimously supported by APSC: **It is recommended that the APSC committee revisit the issue of grade inflation every 5 years, to remain current and stay aware of any issues that may arise.**

### **3. ACADEMIC AMNESTY:**

**Charge:** Using the report from the 2008-9 Academic Integrity Committee as a resource, continue the consideration of GVSU policies as to whether, and under what circumstances, qualifying students could petition to void grades in selected courses or even entire semesters.

**Committee Action:**

Maria Cimitile updated us on the Academic Amnesty issue. Per her discussion with Nancy Giardina, no further effort is needed regarding the amnesty policy. Current policy is acceptable. The current policy, approved by the APSC committee in April, 2009 is a case by case evaluation of all requests.

### **4. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

**Charge:** Using the report from the 2008-9 Academic Integrity Committee and input from the forums held in 2008-9 as resources, consider possible revisions to the policies and processes for addressing issues of academic integrity at Grand Valley,

**Committee Action:**

The 2008-2009 Ad Hoc committee on AI was requested by ECS to continue with its charge in the 2009-1010 academic year. The Ad Hoc Committee had an additional mandate from ECS- to support the APSC in its work on AI issues. Dan Vaughn continued as the AI Chair. The APSC committee constructed and administered an AI survey to all faculty. Three hundred and sixty-six faculty completed the survey. The AI AD Hoc committee analyzed the results in Winter 2010. The two committees jointly presented a webinar on Academic Integrity with support from the provost's office on February 10<sup>th</sup> from 12-2pm in Hager Auditorium, CHS. Twenty GVSU staff and faculty were in attendance from 12 different departments. The following motion was unanimously approved by the APSC in April 2010: **It is recommended that the final report of the 2009-2010 Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Integrity dated 4/10/2010 be accepted and be it further recommended that the APSC 2009-2010 submit the approved report to ECS with full support that the recommendations contained in the report be seriously considered for implementation.**

### **5. ADDITIONAL SERVICE**

An additional service was provided by the APSC. Member Princewell Anyalebechi served on the GVSU Advisory Council to provide input and support to the university's efforts in this area. As the APSC representative Dr. Anyalebechi paid particular attention to how the APSC committee can best obtain input and perspective from the GVSU Advisory Council on the matters within this committee's charge.

**Additional Committee Action:**

Dan Vaughn was elected to serve as the chair of APSC during the 2010-2011 academic year by a unanimous vote of the committee (7 of 10 Members)

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Beel-Bates  
Chairperson, APSC  
2009-2010 Academic Year