

Academic Affairs Committee Minutes

October 30, 2017

3:15-4:45 p.m., UL 1116

Members Present: Mark Bannatyne, Sharron Crowder, Andrew Garvin, Mythily Srinivasan, James Gladden, Jeff X. Watt, Angela White, Teresa Zimmers

Guests: Dr. Nasser Paydar, Chancellor of IUPUI
Dr. Christine Fitzpatrick, Chief of Staff for the Chancellor's Office

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Bannatyne, at 3:20 p.m.
2. The Chair made a few brief general announcements, and then addressed that he had sent a brief report to the IFC Executive Committee on this committee's opinion and recommendations concerning the Commencement date change. This committee's motion on the change of date for Commencement has been scheduled for presentation at the Faculty Council meeting which will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017.
3. Time was then turned over to Chancellor Paydar for his remarks on the Commencement change of date discussed by this committee. The Chancellor began his remarks by providing a very comprehensive overview of the history of Commencement at IUPUI, and the reasons behind the move to propose a change in its date each year. The Chancellor's remarks then went on to include the following points:
 - a. In an effort to ensure students participate in greater numbers at Commencement, any ceremonies which are conducted prior to Commencement should not include the wearing of robes or other official graduation regalia as this tends to make students feel they have graduated and there is no need to attend Commencement.
 - b. The Chancellor stated that he wishes to support schools which have a long tradition of other ceremonies to continue with their traditions. As extra time and space in the Lucas Oil Stadium will not be available in certain years after our commitment through 2019 for such services to be provided, his office will support the costs of holding such ceremonies at other locations so these traditions may continue.

Discussion was then heard by those present regarding certain aspects of Commencement such as its scheduling, length of the ceremony, details about other ceremonies held in diverse schools in the campus, etc. The Chancellor responded to all questions to the satisfaction of those present.

The Chancellor and Dr. Fitzpatrick then took a few minutes to outline the work being done by Dr. Fitzpatrick and others on a committee called to oversee all aspects of the Commencement and those present heard several details as how the committee was working and issues they were presently discussing. Dr. Fitzpatrick invited anyone interested

to participate in working on this committee to present their name for an appointment to serve. (The Chair offered to serve if needed.)

Chancellor Paydar and Dr. Fitzpatrick then excused themselves from the meeting at the end of this discussion.

2. Considerable discussion was heard of the topic of “Credit Transfer, Credit Application, and Residency”. Questions and comments were heard as to which type of institutions credit could come from, and how it is handled once it is received at IUPUI. A review of the responses to the questionnaire sent out last semester by this committee to all schools showed that no school considered or accepted remedial credits for work done below bachelor level status.

Discussion then turned to the issue of how many credits could be received, and how many credits should be taken at IUPUI toward the issuing of a diploma. Expressions as to 32 credit hours being used by some schools at IUPUI might not be enough were heard along with opinions that we must consider the need of some students who may do the majority of their work at other institutions either in or outside the State of Indiana and finding themselves under the necessity of returning before their studies are complete. Such incidences may include reasons due to health, family need, financial distress, etc. Keeping a reasonable level of on-campus credits could allow these students to graduate rather than having to surrender all their studies without a degree being granted. The level of on-campus credits was also discussed with opinions as to the need for 330 and 400-level classes, and capstone courses, being a part of the residency requirement in such cases.

Concerns were expressed as to the “run around” or “shopping” practices of some students who may try and pursue degrees by opting for classes in different schools due to their effort to accomplish graduation through taking classes which are seen as being easier than posted requirements in their major. Mention was made that IUPUI Policy sets a limit on the number of courses, or credits, which may be transferred after a student has matriculated.

The issue of counting credits taken more than once for second majors, minors, or certificates was discussed at length. It was the opinion of those present that this practice is commonly administered throughout higher education in the USA and that it did serve the students and programs well. However, some discussion was heard on the numbers of credits that should be required for achieving a double major. Opinions were expressed that often the “double dipping” of credits could be used to reduce the rigor of a second major. The example of the double major between Mathematics and Physics was used as an example of the proper rigor which should be applied as students in this program are required to fulfill the major core courses in each major to satisfy the double degree. (Mathematics (24) + Physics (38) = 68 core credits)

Some discussion was then heard on the need to apply some requirements on the level of credits that should be taken for a double major to be issued. While 150 credits was used as

a starting point for this discussion, it was not proposed that this would be an appropriate level of credits. The Chair proposed that a review of the practice of issuing double majors by IUPUI's peer institution be reviewed so that future discussions could have a benchmark upon which to base opinions on this matter. (The Chair will make such a review and report back to the members of this committee before the next meeting.)

3. Members Sharron Crowder and Teresa Zimmers requested that a copy of the questionnaire which was sent out to all Deans on "Credit Transfer, Credit Application, and Residency" be sent to them for review. This will be done by the Chair.
4. No old or new business was brought forwarded for discussion.

Adjournment

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