**Academic Affairs Committee**

**Minutes for Meeting No.9**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2020**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Founders Suite (conference room side), Bone Student Center**

**Call to Order**

**Members Present:** Blum, Evans-Winters, Horst, Midha, Nahm, Nikolaou, Solebo, Hurd, Howell.

**Members Absent:** Aguilar, Campbell, Jones.

Called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Standard Order of Business:**

1. **Approval of Minutes** from AAC meeting No.8 (January 22, 2020)
   * + Approved with no amendments
2. **Withdrawal Policy**

* Discussed how we incorporated all comments received from the Senate floor.
* Clarified that students are encouraged to discuss with the Dean of Students instead of being required to meet with the Dean.
* Added that the written request is submitted to the Office of the University Registrar.
* Decided to remove any reference to “classroom disruption violation”:
  + The Code of Student Conduct does not explicitly refer to classroom violations, only Disruptions (VI.A.2.a).
  + The SCCR has a minimal amount of cases classified as disruptions of teaching, research, administrative or other university functions (which are not always classroom disruptions): only three per year for the last three years.
  + The committee discussed adding the 4.1.17 Classroom Disruption Policy on its issues pending for next year.
* Changed the title of section II to clarify that these procedures refer to Withdrawal from the University.
* Looked into other Illinois universities about the due date for submitting a withdrawal request from the university: ISU allows for withdrawing much later than other universities.
* Discussed that including OEOA is not necessary since it is referring to employees and not students and is consistent with recommendation for the General Counsel.
* The committee unanimously approved the changes.

1. **Religious Accommodations**

* Changed the religious accommodation request form due date to 10 business days for both students and employees.
* Discussed about whether and/or when a task is performed by an employee is clear in the policy and agreed that this is captured in “a change in the work environment”.
* We will ask General Counsel to attend the Senate meeting to provide specific examples about why a religious accommodation might not be granted for an employee.
* The committee unanimously approved the changes.

1. **Textbook Policy**

* Focus was on the proposed deletion of the sentence “and Illinois State University may not enter into an exclusive contract for textbook sales with any one store.”
* Concerns about how deletion of the sentence may allow ISU to create exclusive contracts.
* Will this create problems with movies or audio material that is not available for sale with a specific store?
* Why would we want to allow for the possibility of issuing an exclusive contract for textbook sales?
* With the wide use of electronic sources and online stores, it would be more pertinent to not delete the sentence.
* Discussion will continue in next meeting.

The Committee will meet again on March 4, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Dimitrios Nikolaou