**Academic Affairs Internal Committee Meeting**

**September 22, 2021**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Minutes**

**Roll:**

* Present: Senator Cline, Ex-Officio Hurd, Senator Lahiri, Senator Monk, Senator Otto, Senator Small, Senator Nichols, Senator Spranger, Senator McNab, Senator Torry, Senator Villalobos, Senator Novotny
* Absent:

**Meeting called to order**: 6:03 pm

**Minutes from: September 8th**

* Minutes Amended
* Motion carried; minutes approved.

**Discussion:**

1. Updates
   1. IDEAS will be presented as an action item at Academic Senate 9/22
   2. Appointment of Dimitrios Nikolaou to Academic Planning Committee liaison from ACC will come to a vote at Faculty Caucus
   3. Underrepresented Students Recruitment and Retention report has been requested
   4. ACT/SAT for admission:
      1. New legislation has been passed making our initial charge on this matter moot. However, there may be need for adjustments to University policy in order to comply with the new law. Any requested/needed changes will come to Executive Committee before being returned to AAC.
   5. Removal of Title IX item from Issues Pending list due to changes to the law.
2. Review of committee reports
   1. Reinstatement Committee report. No questions or concerns.
   2. Last call: Academic Planning Committee, Council on General Education, Honors Council. The Executive Committee will be informed that the AAC has reviewed these reports and do not have any questions or concerns.
3. Discussion of Policy 2.1.14 -- Withdrawal
   1. Jess Ray -- University Registrar joined the meeting
   2. Discussions began before the pandemic to consolidate the (currently separate) deadlines for dropping a course and for withdrawing from the University. When the pandemic hit, the decision was made (through Senate) to provide an exception to the current policy rather than rewrite the policy at that time. The pandemic exception united the two deadlines at 14 weeks in order to give students as much leeway as possible.
      1. When this pandemic exception was made, Ray surveyed a number of process partners on campus seeking feedback on the extended deadline: Graduate School, Dean of Students, Athletic Compliance, Campus Recreation, University Housing, Student Accounts, Financial Aid, Veterans and Military Services, University College and Retention Services, Academic Advising Council, Planning Research and Policy Analysis, and Enterprise Data and Analytics.
      2. University Housing, the Graduate School, University College, and Athletics were the only process partners to voice some concern.
         1. Issues relating to student-athlete eligibility
         2. GA eligibility
         3. Housing concerns (losing spots for next semester, homelessness)
         4. International student and stipends
         5. Student health insurance eligibility - window where students can retain insurance until the end of the semester
   3. The questions before the AAC now are whether to unite the two deadlines (as is currently happening under the pandemic exception) and what the deadlines (united or separate) should be for student withdrawal.
      * 1. Ray said that all public universities in Illinois are either migrating to or currently have unified deadlines.
        2. The unified deadlines range from 10-14th weeks (with a preference for even weeks)
        3. The evidence for our one-year experiment with a unified deadline are colored by the unusual 2020-2021 academic year and may not be helpful.
   4. Members discussed various concerns related to student impact.
      1. How can we minimize negative impacts for students?
      2. Are there 8-week classes that they can pick up and avoid falling below full time (thus losing funding, housing, or academic progress)? How do other universities handle this?
      3. How do we set the deadline to avoid students losing housing or financial aid if dropping a class takes them to part time status?
      4. Are there unanticipated DEI concerns with the various deadlines?
   5. Cline, Hurd, and Ray will seek additional feedback from University process partners for our next meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned**: 6:54 pm