



ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (APC)
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2017

Time: 1:30pm-3:15pm

Room: 209 Assumption Hall

Committee Members: Dr. Fazle Baki, Prof. Jeff Berryman, Ms. Joan Dalton, Dr. Lorna deWitt, Dr. Shervin Erfani, Dr. Erika Kustra, Dr. Katherine Quinsey (Acting Chair), Dr. Antonio Rossini, Dr. Alan Scoboria.

Absent: Dr. Philip Dutton (Chair) (regrets), Mr. Dariush Karimi (regrets), Mr. Ahmed Khalifa, Dr. Scott Martyn (regrets), Dr. Karen Roland (regrets), Prof. John Weir (regrets).

In Attendance: Dr. Anne Forrest; Ms. Renée Wintermute (University Secretary).

1 Approval of Agenda

Although items were not discussed in sequential order, the minutes do reflect the agenda order of business.

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

Dr. L. DeWitt/Ms. J. Dalton

CARRIED

2 Approval of Minutes

(See document APC170314M)

MOTION: That the minutes of the Academic Policy Committee meeting of March 14, 2017 be approved.

Dr. A. Rossini/Dr. E. Kustra

CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding business

Nothing to report.

Items for Information

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Proposed 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Tuition Fees

(See document APC170420-5.1 for more details.)

NOTED:

- The Ministry has extended the current tuition fee framework for an additional two years, covering 2017/18 and 2018/19. The framework limits tuition increases to an overall 3% across all undergraduate and graduate domestic programs. It is up to each individual university to determine how to strategically raise their tuition fees within the confines of the Ministry's framework. International student fees continue to be deregulated.

- The province has recommended to universities that a two-year tuition fee proposal be pursued to align with the move to net tuition billing and communication of financial aid changes to students. The fee proposal was developed following a series of strategic discussions, which included a review of fees across the province, enrolment management considerations due to shifts in enrolment patterns and student demographics, and competitiveness and market considerations. Standard internal processes were followed in developing the proposal.
- Compulsory ancillary fees for 2017/18 are largely based on the CPI index and results of student referenda, in particular the Lancer Sports and Recreation Centre.

COMMENTS/FEEDBACK:

- APC notes that internal processes were followed, that the provincial tuition framework has been adhered to, and that market considerations informed international fee increases. The two-year tuition fee proposal is appropriate in light of the new net tuition model which, if implemented well, will be of significant benefit to students.
- APC appreciates the constraints under which the University is operating and notes that the proposal is sensitive to the shifts in student demographics on campus. As stated last year, APC notes that government grants now make up only 36% of operating revenue, making Windsor (and other universities) increasingly reliant on tuition fees for revenue, particularly international fees as the domestic student age population declines. The increasing reliance on professional Masters programs is not without risk as other Canadian and international universities focus more and more on international markets. While this is a sound short-term strategy to address budgetary pressures, APC members wonder whether a longer-term strategy has been identified. With a portion of the government grant being allocated to a new at-risk “Differentiation Grant”, APC notes that it will be imperative to get the SMA2 and SMA3 right to ensure this funding is retained.
- APC reiterates last year’s comment that enrolment management needs to be a primary focus given the significant change in the student body over the past few years (both in terms of demographics and program choices). The recent Strategic Enrolment Management report is a good start. This enrolment management exercise should include a review of enrolment numbers in professional Masters’ programs and an assessment of the impact of these numbers on the quality of research-based graduate programs.

5.2 Tabula Rasa Policy

(See document APC170406-5.2 for more details.)

NOTED:

- The Liberal Arts and Professional Studies program serves two groups of students: 1) those high achieving students interested in a broad-range of disciplines, and 2) students who have been required to withdraw from their programs. In most cases, the students in the latter grouping enrolled in a program which did not play to their strengths and the LAPS program provides a chance to rectify this error. Unfortunately, grades achieved in the prior program are such that the students, despite performing well in the new program, continue struggling to raise their cumulative average to the minimum required to graduate. This raises concerns about allowing and encouraging some students to continue at the University when there is no possibility that they will be able to meet the average requirement for graduation.
- Because students transfer into the program at different stages in their academic career, it is not practical or appropriate to require that all students take 01-220, though it will be encouraged.
- A concern was expressed that this devalues the LAPS degree program and that students should be held accountable for the course grades received. In response, it was noted that this policy does not devalue the LAPS program which has always been an alternate program for students who are not successful in their first program. Through this policy, students are simply given a fresh start. Students will be subject to the same average requirements and course requirements as students who enrolled directly into the program.

- All course records will remain on the transcript.
- Students can apply for readmission to their former program or may transfer to another program. However, the tabula rasa provision will be removed and all courses will count in the calculation of averages.

MOTION: That the Tabula Rasa Policy be approved.

Dr. A. Rossini/Dr. E. Kustra

AGREED:

- The document was revised to make it clear that only failing grades received prior to the transfer into the LAPS program will be removed from the calculation of averages under this policy. All grades below 50% will be used in the calculation of averages if the student transfers out of the LAPS program.
- In response to a question, it was agreed that the policy should be limited to students who transfer into the LAPS program. Once the policy has been in place for 1-2 years and an analysis of the effectiveness of the policy is conducted, it may be appropriate to consider extending it to students who transfer into other degree programs. At the core, this is about students whose first program choice was not a good fit.
- An assessment of the success of this policy should be provided to APC 1-2 years after implementation.

CARRIED, as amended

6 Question period/Other business/Open discussion

Nothing to report.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

Dr. A. Rossini/Dr. E. Kustra

CARRIED