**Academic Affairs Committee**

Monday December 15, 2014 3:45-5:15 Frost Commons

*Attending: Deb Tobine, Roxana Wright, David Zehr, Stephanie Halter, Roger Blake, Kerry Yurewicz, Jason Cordeira, Jennifer Green, Christie Sweeney, Kelly Swindelhurst, Jamie Hannon, Christin Chenard*

*Absent: George Gilmore, Brandon Pierre, Jim Hundrieser, Chris Ramsden*

Previous meeting minutes were approved.

**Old business**

6 week grade policy: draft motion and rationale for extending 6 week grades policy to students with 47+ credits.

Based on the recent survey report, students seemed to favor of the six weeks grades (62% stated that six weeks grades were moderately or very important; 90 students participated in the survey). These grades appear to motivate students. The data on advisors discussing six weeks grades was somewhat troubling.

Motion:

Stephanie will draft.

Rationale:

Stephanie will draft. Aspects to consider:

* Student success taskforce (faculty, staff) recommended this policy, suggesting institutional support for this initiative.
* Retention important in the current fiscal climate.
* Effective advising tool.
* An opportunity for our institution to lead in this area. Good marketing and PR. Would serve as a differentiator for our University.
* Recent research on proactive advising that supports this idea, significant amount of research supports the effectiveness of six weeks grades for retention.

Draft the policy change:

Page 50 of the 2014-2015 Academic Catalog:

**Early Evaluation**

All students who have earned 47 or fewer credits (first year through second year sophomore classification) are evaluated at the end of the first six weeks of classes during the fall and spring semesters. Instructors of full-semester courses submit grades on students’ performance. Students are urged to discuss these grades with their advisors and instructors. All first-semester, first year students (those who have attempted fewer than 12 credits), after consultation with the advisor and instructor(s), may drop full-semester courses(s) within two weeks after notice of the early evaluation.

Changes to

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Student representatives could present the data from the survey; Pat Cate could be asked to speak for the motion.

**New Business**

URSA representative-Roger Blake

**Items that will be brought forward next semester**

David: International students are getting extra time on the exam. USNH counsel was ambiguous on the issue. David will bring in for discussion in February.

Stephanie: For an academic integrity violation, a student can petition after one year to have the suspension taken off the transcript but the AF will remain on the transcript. Students should perhaps have the opportunity to go through a program where the AF will be taken off the record (AF will be replaced with an F).

*Upcoming:*

*Jan 5 9am – Noon  Probation advisories*

*Jan 14 9am - Noon Severance appeals*