

# FACULTY SENATE AGENDA

September 19, 2012

Room 2, Wells Conference Center

3:00 pm refreshments with agenda starting at 3:15

## I. Welcome and Announcements

- Charlie Slavin Commemoration: Presented by James Gallagher
- Committee Signup
- Faculty Senate Involvement in Blue Sky Implementation Plan
- Senate Meeting Formalities
- Faculty Senate Web Pages and FirstClass
- Other Announcements

## II. Approval of April 2012 Minutes

See Appendix 1 or

<http://umaine.edu/facultysenate/senate-minutes/2011-2012/april-25-2012/>

## III. Committee Reports

Board of Trustees Representative – Bob Rice

Academic Affairs – Richard Borgman & Judy Kuhns-Hastings

Constitution & Bylaws – Mick Peterson

Research & Scholarship – Robert Gundersen

Finance & Institutional Planning – Jim McClymer & Tom Sandford

University Environment – Andrew Reeve & Michael Scott

Library Advisory – Robert Rice & Howard Segal

Service & Outreach – Emmanuel Boss & Claire Sullivan

Committee on Committees – Roy Turner

Program Creation & Reorganization Review – Michael Grillo

General Education – <chair vacancy>

Ad Hoc IT Advisory – Martha Novy-Broderick & Michael Scott

Reports of Faculty Members on Committees of the Administration

- Blue Sky Path Teams <forthcoming>
- Student Conduct Code Committee
- Parking and Transportation Committee
- Campus Planning Committee
- Cultural Affairs Committee
- Honorary Degree Committee
- Search Committee for Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies
- Undergraduate Program Curriculum Committee (UPCC)

## IV. Invited Report from the Administration

President Paul Ferguson, *Blue Sky Status, Plans & Faculty Engagement*

## Questions

## V. Old Business

## VI. New Business

## VII. Adjourn

## APPENDIX 1

### **DRAFT**

### **Faculty Senate Minutes**

**April 25, 2012**

**Present:** Dick Brucher, Jack Burt, Sudarshan Chawathe, Benildo de los Reyes, Marcia Douglas, Dylan Dryer, Janet Fairman, Michael Grillo, Gordon Hamilton, Sue Hunter, Dennis King, James McClymer, Robert Milardo, Paul Myer, Martha Novy-Broderick, Harlan Onsrud, Michael Peterson, Andrew Reeve, Bob Rice, Thomas Sanford, Michael Scott, Scott See, Kathryn Slott, Howard Segal, Philip Trostel, Shihfen Tu, Paul W. Ferguson, Susan Hunter, Stuart Marris, Anne Pooler, Janet Waldron, Melvin Johnson,

**Absent:** Richard Borgman, Emmanuel Boss, Douglas Bousfield, Ian Bricknell, William Congleton, David Dvorak, Robert Gundersen, Ramesh Gupta, Duane Hanselman, Dan Harrison, Samuel Helmke, Clarissa Henry, Melvin Johnson, Deborah Killam, Steven Kimball, Kurt Klappenbach, Judy Kuhns-Hastings, Bill Livingston, Molly MacLean, David Marcincowski, Stuart Marris, Jennifer Moxley, Anthony Ortiz, Tina Passman, Ray Pelletier, Paul Rawson, Caleb Rosser, Howard Segal, Roy Turner, Chuck Wallace, Mark Wells, Vivian Wu, Robert Strong, Molly MacLean

The meeting was called to order at —-pm

### **Announcements**

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **BOT Rep – Robert Rice**

**Academic Affairs –Judy Kuhns-Hastings & Shihfen Tu**

**Constitution &Bylaws – Harlan Onsrud**

**Research &Scholarship – Janet Fairman**

**Finance &Institutional Planning – James McClymer**

FIPSE met yesterday and decided to postpone the motion on today's agenda until fall.

**University Environment – Mike Scott**

No report.

**Library Advisory –Howard Segal**

No report.

**Service &Outreach – Deborah Killam & Claire Sullivan**

No report.

**Committee on Committees – Roy Turner**

No report.

Roy sent a message of thanks to the committee for the hard work this year.

**Program creation& Reorganization Review – Scott See**

There's a motion under New Business. Also want to thank the committee for their work.

**General Education – Thomas Sandford**

There are motions under Old Business. Thank you to the committee for all their hard work.

**Ad Hoc IT –Mike Scott**

No report.

**Committees of the Administration**

No report.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the March 28, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

#### **Questions to Administrators**

Q. Regarding the Strategic Plan, any hints?

A. Pres. Ferguson — The Board of Visitors will look at it and hopefully a draft will be available in May.

Q. Are you happy, disappointed?

A. Happy, everyone's pleased. There was tremendous input and think it will be "bold and pragmatic". The report won't be every answer but it's a start in a real way so very happy.

## **Old Business**

### General Education Motion

#### **Resolution to adopt updated General Education Student Learning Outcomes for Demonstrated Writing Competency**

Original statement from the General Education Implementation Guidelines for Demonstrated Writing Competency (ratified by the Senate 1996). *Students are required to write throughout their academic careers and must demonstrate competency both at the introductory level and within their majors. To fulfill this requirement, students must:*

*1) Complete ENG 101, College Composition with a grade of C or better, or be excused from this course on the basis of a placement exam.*

*2) Complete at least two writing-intensive courses, at least one of which must be within the academic major.*

**DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS-** *In a writing-intensive course:*

*a) students must have an opportunity to revise their writing in response to feedback from the instructor;*

*b) a substantial portion of the student's final grade must be based upon the quality of the written work, and*

*c) course enrollment should normally be limited to 25 students or less.*

The General Education Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt and ratify the following updated and streamlined set of student learning outcomes for the Demonstrated Writing Competency general education category. This change creates student learning outcomes that are clear, assessable, and understandable by students.

#### **Resolution to adopt updated General Education Student Learning Outcomes for Ethics**

Original statement from the General Education Implementation Guidelines for Ethics (ratified by the Senate 1996).

*Students are required to take a course or a series of courses placing substantial emphasis on discussion of ethical issues.*

*The ethics requirement can be satisfied by 1) a stand-alone course in which ethics constitutes a substantial focus of the course, or 2) by a well defined series of courses required in a particular curriculum, wherein the treatment of ethics in any one course may be somewhat less, but which taken together sum to a substantial emphasis on ethics.*

*1) Courses that satisfy the ethics requirement have one or more of the following attributes:*

*a) they teach methods of ethical analysis*

*b) they deal intensively with ethical issues associated with a particular discipline or profession;*

*c) they engage the student in the study of ethical questions arising through the interpretation of literature or history, or social scientific analysis designed to include ethical evaluation. [In order for a course to be approved under this criterion, the treatment of ethics must be substantial rather than merely incidental. Examples: i) a course in history that focuses strongly on the ethical issues raised by a particular policy, e.g. colonialism, and the ways in which those issues were addressed or ignored, might be appropriate; ii) a course in econometrics typically would not count, but an economics course broadened to include questions of distributive justice could; iii) a course on psychophysics might not count, but a course on moral development could.]*

*2) Programs that undertake to integrate the treatment of ethics throughout the required curriculum may submit to the General Education Committee (GEIC) evidence that the program overall meets the Ethics requirement. The GEIC may thus approve a program (for a fixed period of time subject to regular review) as an alternative to requiring that each student's curriculum contain specifically approved courses.*

#### **Resolution to adopt updated General Education Student Learning Outcomes for Science**

Original statement from the General Education Implementation Guidelines for Science (ratified by the Senate 1996).

*Students are required to complete two courses in the physical or biological – sciences. This may be accomplished in two ways:*

*. 1) By completing two courses with laboratories in the basic or applied sciences;*

*. 2) By completing one approved course in the applications of scientific knowledge, plus one course with a lab in the basic or applied sciences.*

**DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS**

*. 1) A laboratory course in the applied physical or biological sciences brings basic knowledge to bear on the solution of practical problems in engineering, medicine, agriculture, forestry, and other fields for which natural science forms the foundation. Normally applied science courses require one of the basic natural sciences (biology, physics, chemistry, geology) as a prerequisite, and carry at least 4 degree credits.*

*. 2) A course in the applications of scientific knowledge has the following attributes:*

*. a) it focuses on one or more basic or applied natural sciences*

*. b) it includes significant blending of presently accepted science with its application in common situations;*

*. c) it discusses both the applications and limitations of the relevant scientific methodology;*

. d) *it includes as a major component of the course the observation of natural phenomena coupled with the gathering of data and its quantitative analysis, and its interpretation in an expository format; its overall focus is on guiding students towards the scientific literacy necessary for modern life rather than on training future science professionals.*

The General Education Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt and ratify the following updated and streamlined set of student learning outcomes for the Science general education category. This change creates student learning outcomes that are clear, assessable, and understandable by students.

### **Proposed student learning outcomes and preamble:**

#### **General Education Student Learning Outcomes Science**

##### **Preamble**

Students are required to complete two courses in the physical or biological – sciences. This may be accomplished in two ways:

- . 1) By completing two courses with laboratories in the basic or applied sciences;
- . 2) By completing one approved course in the applications of scientific knowledge, plus one course with a laboratory in the basic or applied sciences.

##### **DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS**

. 1) A laboratory course in the applied physical or biological sciences brings basic knowledge to bear on the solution of practical problems in engineering, medicine, agriculture, forestry, and other fields for which natural science forms the foundation. Normally applied science courses require one of the basic natural sciences (biology, physics, chemistry, geology) as a prerequisite, and carry at least 4 degree credits.

. 2) A course in the applications of scientific knowledge has the following attributes:

- . a) it focuses on one or more basic or applied natural sciences
- . b) it includes significant blending of presently accepted science with its application in common situations;
- . c) it discusses both the applications and limitations of the relevant scientific methodology;
- . d) it includes as a major component of the course the observation of natural phenomena coupled with the gathering of data and its quantitative analysis, and its interpretation in an expository format;

*its overall focus is on guiding students towards the scientific literacy necessary for modern life rather than on training future science professionals.*

A science course, laboratory or applied, will have the following student outcomes embedded within the course. The outcomes are based on “The Nature of Science” as published in “Science for All Americans Online” at <http://www.project2061.org/publications/sfaa/online/chap1.htm> (sponsored by American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)). Retrieved February 2012.

**Student Learning Outcomes** Students completing the general education area of Science will be able to:

- . 1) Explain what makes knowledge scientific, i.e., “...things and events in the universe occur in consistent patterns that are comprehensible through careful, systematic study.” (AAAS)
- . 2) Demonstrate the appreciation that scientific knowledge is subject to change as new observations and interpretations challenge current understanding.
- . 3) Recognize that valid scientific information is durable, i.e., it is continually affirmed as new observations are made.
- . 4) Perform scientific inquiry including aspects of the scientific method, such as observation, hypothesis, experiment, and evaluation. *Note: Covered in laboratory science courses but not necessarily in applied science courses.*

#### **Resolution to adopt updated General Education Student Learning Outcomes for Capstone Experience**

Original statement from the General Education Implementation Guidelines for Capstone Experience (ratified by the Senate 1996). *Every program must include an approved capstone experience. The goal is to draw together the various threads of the undergraduate program that bear directly upon the academic major in an experience that typifies the work of professionals within the discipline. Normally, the Capstone would conclude at the end of the student’s senior year. Students should consult closely with their academic advisor to explore the range of options available for meeting this requirement.*

*The capstone experience should have the following attributes:*

- . *the experience must be of significant depth and require innovation, creativity, reflection and synthesis of prior learning;*
  - . *the experience must result in a thesis, report, presentation, or performance that demonstrates mastery of the subject matter*
  - . *faculty/student interaction should be an integral part of the experience.*
  - . *minimum student effort in the capstone should reflect the equivalent of three credits of work*
- Interdisciplinary experiences and opportunities for group participation in the capstone experience should be encouraged.*

The General Education Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt and ratify the following updated and streamlined set of student learning outcomes for the Capstone Experience general education category. This change creates student learning outcomes that are clear, assessable, and understandable by students.

**Proposed student learning outcomes and preamble: General Education Student Learning Outcomes**

Capstone

**Preamble**

*Every program must include an approved capstone experience. The goal is to draw together the various threads of the undergraduate program that bear directly upon the academic major in an experience that typifies the work of professionals within the discipline. Normally, the Capstone would conclude at the end of the student's senior year. Students should consult closely with their academic advisor to explore the range of options available for meeting this requirement.*

*The capstone experience should have the following attributes: 1. the experience must be of significant depth and require innovation, creativity,*

*reflection and synthesis of prior learning;*

GeEd Committee Reviewed Draft 2/24/12

*. the experience must result in a thesis, report, presentation, or performance that demonstrates mastery of the subject matter*

*. faculty/student interaction should be an integral part of the experience.*

*. minimum student effort in the capstone should reflect the equivalent of three credits of work*

*Interdisciplinary experiences and opportunities for group participation in the capstone experience should be encouraged.*

**Student Learning Outcomes** Students completing the general education area of Capstone Experience will be able to:

*. Synthesize knowledge, skills, and dispositions gained throughout the student's major concentration of study.*

*. Demonstrate competence within the discipline through professional conduct and, as appropriate, critical reasoning, analytical ability, and creativity.*

*. Demonstrate effective communication skills.*

**Resolution to adopt updated General Education Student Learning Outcomes for Human Values and Social Contexts: Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives**

Original statement from the General Education Implementation Guidelines for Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives (ratified by the Senate 1996). *A course included in the Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives category satisfies one or more of the following criteria: (a) it places primary emphasis on the experiences, perspectives, and cultural work of one or more groups who are not dominant within a particular culture; (b) it has a primary goal encouraging students to become aware of the diversity of American culture and to discover their roles within that diversity; or (c) it places primary emphasis on the relationships among or within different cultures in the past or present; (d) it introduces students to a culture other than their own through an intermediate or advanced course in the language of that culture.*

The General Education Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt and ratify the following updated and streamlined set of student learning outcomes for the Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives general education subcategory. This change creates student learning outcomes that are clear, assessable, and understandable by students.

**Proposed student learning outcomes and preamble:**

**General Education Student Learning Outcomes Human Values and Social Contexts: Cultural Diversity or International Perspectives**

**Preamble**

*A course included in the Cultural Diversity or International Perspectives category satisfies one or more of the following criteria: (a) it places primary emphasis on the experiences, perspectives, and cultural work of one or more groups who are not dominant within a particular culture; (b) it has a primary goal encouraging students to become aware of the diversity of American culture and to discover their roles within that diversity; or (c) it places primary emphasis on the relationships among or within different cultures in the past or present; (d) it introduces students to a culture other than their own through an intermediate or advanced course in the language of that culture.*

**Student Learning Outcomes** Students completing the Cultural Diversity or International Perspectives general education area of will be able to do at least one of the following:

Gen Ed Committee Reviewed 2/17/12

1. Recognize the experiences, perspectives, and cultural values of one or more groups who live within a culture different than their own.

2. Describe the diversity of American culture and reflect on their personal roles within that diversity.

3. Identify and assess how different cultures have related to each other either in the past or the present.
4. Achieve intermediate or advanced mastery of a language other than English.

**Resolution to adopt updated General Education Student Learning Outcomes for Human Values and Social Contexts: Population and Environment**

Original statement from the General Education Implementation Guidelines for Population and Environment (ratified by the Senate 1996). *Courses included in the Population and Environment sub-category help students to understand how humankind interacts with our finite physical and biological environment. This understanding will be best achieved by a highly interdisciplinary approach that brings together aspects of the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. Although the technical solutions to environmental problems will be based upon scientific knowledge, the goals to be set and the ethical, political, economic and social dimensions of meeting them are the domain of the humanities and social sciences, which therefore must constitute a major focus of the course. Courses fulfilling this requirement should address the following:*

- . a) *the role of both local and global environmental change on the quality of human life;*
- . b) *the pervasive role of human population growth on environmental quality and the quality of life, both in industrial and developing countries;*
- . c) *the influence of cultural, religious, economic, educational, and political factors on population growth and environmental quality;*
- . d) *possible solutions to the population/environment problems, which may include the role of technological advancements, a reexamination of educational and political institutions, enlightened reassessment of traditional religious and economic conceptions, and rethinking of the contemporary Western conception of “the good life.”*

The General Education Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt and ratify the following updated and streamlined set of student learning outcomes for the Population and Environment general education subcategory. This change creates student learning outcomes that are clear, assessable, and understandable by students.

**Resolution to adopt updated General Education Student Learning Outcomes for Human Values and Social Contexts: Artistic and Creative Expression**

Original statement from the General Education Implementation Guidelines for Artistic and Creative Expression (ratified by the Senate 1996). *Courses included in the Artistic and Creative Expression category engage the student in creative thinking and processes. A primary objective is to develop skills and intellectual tools required to make artistic and creative decisions, and to participate in, evaluate, or appreciate artistic and creative forms of expression.*

The General Education Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt and ratify the following updated and streamlined set of student learning outcomes for the Artistic and Creative Expression general education subcategory. This change creates student learning outcomes that are clear, assessable, and understandable by students.

**Proposed student learning outcomes and preamble:**

**General Education Student Learning Outcomes Human Values and Social Contexts: Artistic and Creative Expression Preamble**

Courses included in the Artistic and Creative Expression category engage the student in creative thinking and processes. A primary objective is to develop skills and intellectual tools required to make artistic and creative decisions, and to participate in, evaluate, or appreciate artistic and creative forms of expression.

**Student Learning Outcomes** Students completing the general education area of Artistic and Creative Expression will be able to:

- . Participate in, identify or evaluate artistic and creative forms of expression.
- . Develop skills and/or intellectual tools central to the artistic and creative process or its critique.

**Resolution to adopt updated General Education Student Learning Outcomes for Human Values and Social Contexts: Social Contexts and Institutions**

Original statement from the General Education Implementation Guidelines for Social Contexts and Institutions (ratified by the Senate 1996). *Courses included in the Social Contexts and Institutions category focus upon the ways in which social contexts shape and limit human institutions (defined broadly to include customs and relationships as well as organizations). The specific focus may be upon ways in which social contexts and institutions interact with human values, the role of institutions in expressing cultural values, or the social and ethical dimensions attendant upon particular academic disciplines.*

The General Education Committee recommends that the Faculty Senate adopt and ratify the following updated and streamlined set of student learning outcomes for the Social Contexts and Institutions general education subcategory. This change creates student learning outcomes that are clear, assessable, and understandable by students.

**Proposed student learning outcomes and preamble:**

**General Education Student Learning Outcomes Human Values and Social Contexts: Social Contexts and Institutions**

**Preamble**

Courses included in the Social Contexts and Institutions category focus upon the ways in which social contexts shape and limit human institutions (defined broadly to include customs and relationships as well as organizations). The specific focus may be upon ways in which social contacts and institutions interact with human values, the role of institutions in expressing cultural values, or the social and ethical dimensions attendant upon particular academic disciplines.

**Student Learning Outcomes** Students completing the general education area of Social Context and Institutions will be able to:

- . Identify, describe and analyze social contexts and human institutions
- . Recognize and critically evaluate the interaction between social contexts and human institutions

**Vote: Approved 21, No 0, Abstain 0**

**New Business**

Motion from PCRRC

**PCRRC Assessment and Recommendation  
Elimination Proposal: M.S. in Accounting  
April 2012**

Background and Committee Process: [for Stage 2 sequence]

2009-2011: MSA Program transformed into a concentration in the MBA program

May 2011: Proposal tabled for completion in 2012-2013

3/12/12: Final Report: Program Elimination Proposal: Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) – Dean Ivan Manev, School of Business

4/4/12: PCRRC meeting to draft final recommendation to Faculty Senate

Overview of the Proposal and Current Status of the Transformation to a Concentration:

\* It clearly outlines the transformation rather than the elimination of a program. With the approval of the full MBS faculty, the former MSA program has already been transformed into a concentration in the MBA program at the University of Maine.

\* It makes a compelling case for the reasons why the former MSA program did not meet its original expectations after about 10 years of operation. In addition, it explains the AACSB accreditation issues that would be encountered if a MS program were to continue with the current number of accounting faculty.

\* It indicates that the transformation has had minimal impact on the cost of instruction, research, and public service. Moreover, no faculty were retrenched or reassigned during the restructuring. Finally, the restructuring from a MS to a concentration does not negatively impact the mission of the University of Maine's Business School.

PCRRC Summary Comments:

The PCRRC carefully reviewed the Program Elimination Proposal: Master of Science in Accounting (MSA). In addition it considered the transformation of the MSA program into a concentration over the past several years. It finds that, given the changing circumstances of academic requirements and expectations of graduate study leading to a Certified Public Accountant exam, the Business School has effectively and thoughtfully completed the transformation with a minimum of disruption for both students and faculty.

Recommendation

PCRRC recommends Faculty Senate approval of the elimination of the MS in Accounting.

**Vote: Approved 21, No 0, Abstain 0**

Academic Affairs Motion

**Subject: Academic policy: grading system wording changes.**

From: The Academic Affairs Committee

To: Faculty Senate Date: April 25, 2012

Attached please find a revised version of the grading system wording (being proposed), and a copy showing the edits. This text will be a part of the undergraduate catalog.

**Rationale, from the office of student records, is as follows: Rationale for Editorial Changes to Descriptions of Grades in the Undergraduate Catalog (F, L, LP, P, T, W, and addition to I)**

**New Language in “Incomplete” Policy**

Changes to the Incomplete (“I”) grade description are designed to clarify arrangements in the event the instructor is not able to work with the student to evaluate outstanding work turned in by his or her deadline(s) and to coordinate with changes on the Incomplete Reporting Form. The form and the policy have always assumed that instructors understand that student’s consent and knowledge is necessary to assign this grade. But new instructors may not always understand that. Without such a provision, instructors might assign Incompletes to students called to active duty in the following semester without the student realizing he or she had an Incomplete grade. Such a student who had earned a low passing grade and was content with the credit might eventually have an “F” and no credit on the transcript, when an Incomplete of which he or she was unaware changes to an “F” after 140 days.\

**New Definitions for “L” and “F”**

The distinction between the “L” and “F” grades is extremely significant in terms of financial aid eligibility: past inconsistency in the awarding of these two grades has meant that some students had semester financial aid revoked when others did not lose their aid, even though their behavior and achievement was the same. The changes in the definitions of these two grades are designed to make it easier for instructors to know which grade is appropriate and to align with standards of federal financial aid distribution that our Student Financial Aid Office is legally obliged to uphold. The former standard for the grade of “L” of “Never attended or stopped attending” gave no specifics about when the attendance stopped, and many instructors complained that it was hard to know what it really meant. The percentage suggested in the new language, we hope, will make it easy for faculty to know which of the two grades is most appropriate to assign.

In addition, it is important when students seek academic and/or financial adjustments due to involuntary circumstances (such as medical problems) that the grade aligns with attendance/participation in the course as accurately as possible. If not, deans’ offices have to bother faculty members to check attendance records and verify a student’s account of absences or missed work, and this is unnecessary if an “L” is given to a student who disappeared from the class early on.

**Discussion:**

The changes can be grouped into three areas:

- . Organizational. The descriptions of L through W, currently at the bottom of the discussion, have been moved up to be with all the other grade descriptions.
- . Clarification. New instructors, especially, will benefit from more detailed instructions about the assigning of incompletes.
- . To conform to federal financial aid regulation. This is clearly the most important. In the past, it was not clear when an L was appropriate and when an F is appropriate for a student who fails to complete a course, and this can affect financial aid. The new wording introduces a 50% participation rule (to be determined by the instructor.) “If participation is 50% or more, the F grade is appropriate.” Less than 50% participation, then L is appropriate. This conforms to federal financial aid guidelines. The issue Financial Aid faces is in determining if a student walked away and didn’t finish a class. Apparently this is important only in the aggregate. That is, if a student got a grade in ANY class (even an F) they do not need to do any more work. The distinction between L and F doesn’t matter to them. But what they see sometimes is that a student gets 3 Fs and 2 Ls. Now they have to check and see if those Fs are Fs or should be Ls. If they walked away from everything then there are ramifications regarding financial aid.

The committee has worked extensively on this wording with Financial Aid and Academic Affairs and believes the revised text is appropriate.

The Faculty Senate approves the language following for the Undergraduate Catalog.

**Vote: Approved 21, No 0, Abstain 0**

**Subject: Academic Policy: No Examination in the Final Week of Classes From: The Academic Affairs Committee  
To: Faculty Senate Date: April 25, 2012**

**Discussion:**

Current Policy (approved on May 17, 1995 Faculty Senate Meeting):

No examination may be scheduled during the last week of classes except by permission of the appropriate associate dean or director. A final examination may be scheduled only during final exam week. If a final is not scheduled, and the instructor wishes to schedule a prelim covering the last weeks of the course, this prelim must be given during the final exam week.



The Academic Affairs Committee understands that the intent behind the policy is to reduce student stress, to allow sufficient study time prior to final exams, and to preserve full length of the semester. The Committee fully supports such intent. However, the Committee also recognizes that for pedagogical reasons, instructors may at times wish to give tests during the final week of the classes and thus request permission for an exception. For example, some laboratory courses may fall into such category. The current policy states that only an associate dean or director may grant such exceptions. In some colleges and units, associate deans or directors may not be familiar with faculty members making waiver requests or familiar with instructors' pedagogical reasons. In such cases, the Academic Affairs Committee believes that the unit curriculum committee or faculty equivalent may be the best judge in making such decisions. However, the Committee also recognizes the importance of communicating the decision to grant a waiver to the appropriate associate dean or director to ensure implementation. The Academic Affairs Committee therefore suggests the current policy to be amended as stated in the language below.

The Faculty Senate approves the proposed "no examination in the final week of classes" policy.

A final examination may be scheduled only during final exam week. If a final exam is not scheduled, and the instructor wishes to schedule a prelim covering the last weeks of the course, this prelim must be given during the final exam week. No examination may be scheduled during the last week of classes unless permission is granted by the department, area, or unit curriculum committee or faculty equivalent. Scheduling decisions should be made within a framework that preserves the full length of the semester and considers the impact of such examinations on the students involved. For information purposes, this decision will be communicated by the unit to the college Associate Dean, whose responsibility is in turn to communicate with the Office of Student Records.

**Vote: Approved 21, No 0, Abstain 0**

Bob Rice thanked Michael Grillo for a great job as Faculty Senate President.

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted

Kathryn Slott

## APPENDIX 2

Sept 12, 2012

### Fall 2012 Faculty Senate Committee Agendas

The designated areas of responsibility for each standing committee may be found in Article IV at <http://umaine.edu/facultysenate/bylaws/>

#### **Academic Affairs**

Co-Chairs: Richard Borgman and Judy Kuhns-Hastings

- 1.) Change of Grade Policy (to complete from last year—involves procedures for faculty to change a students' grade).
- 2.) Work towards retention of tenure stream positions to ensure curriculum integrity. That is, explore the issue of tenure track positions versus the move to temporary, adjunct, non-tenure faculty.
- 3.) Academic Affairs was charged to serve as an initial inquiry group to gather basic information about certificates and existing review processes at both undergrad and grad level.
- 4.) Academic Affairs was requested to explore a potential calendar change. Perhaps a modified Tu/Th and Mon/Wed sort of schedule, with MWF classes in morning and M/W classes in afternoon. (Started last year. We have gathered some data from other schools and need to move forward.)
- 5.) Common core and articulation agreements.
- 6.) Course credit for military experiences
- 7.) Clarifying peer definition and peer selection for all new faculty hires.
- 8.) General: Process any requests to the Senate relating to academic matters including university-wide degree requirements, curriculum matters involving two or more colleges, the academic calendar, academic freedom, academic standards, academic performance, the assessment of academic outcomes, academic titles, criteria for ranks, admission standards, grading, evaluation of teaching, student academic standing, honorary degrees, and the library.

#### **Committee on Committees**

Chair: Roy Turner

- 1.) Process requests to the Faculty Senate for appointment or nomination of faculty members to campus committees formed by the administration or others
- 2.) General: Make recommendations to the President of the Senate for all faculty members of each standing committee. At the March meeting, the Committee on Committees presents preferably at least two candidates for Vice President/President-elect, Secretary and Board of Trustees Representative.

#### **Constitution and Bylaws**

Chair: Mick Peterson

- 1.) Review the Constitution and Bylaws and propose and process any amendments as needed
- 2.) Review the Faculty Hand-Book, develop a revised draft, post as a web-based html draft, solicit comments and potential revisions and propose for approval by the Senate
- 3.) General: Review any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Faculty Senate.

#### **Finance and Institutional Planning**

Co-Chairs: Jim McClymer and Tom Sanford

- 1.) Pursue increased transparency of academic financing
- 2.) Assess financial and institutional planning implications of Blue Sky proposed actions
- 3.) Pursue greater committee inclusion in campus and system financial planning processes
- 4.) Review experimental funding of programs
- 5.) General: Review matters and make recommendations to the Senate in matters relating to administrative organization, institutional planning, and budgetary issues affecting university priorities and allocation.

#### **General Education**

Chair: to be named

- 1.) Track and assess development and revision of campus General Education course requirements
- 2.) Explore alternative General Education models with the goal of achieving more effective models

3.) General: Serve as a liaison with all campus administrative committees dealing with general education and bring to the attention of the Faculty Senate issues relating to general education

### **Library Advisory Committee**

Co-Chairs: Robert Rice and Howard Segal

- 1.) Facilitate and promote means for populating the Digital Commons (i.e. the campus Institutional Repository hosted by Fogler Library)
- 2.) General: Review and make recommendations to the Senate in matters relating to the functions of the library including physical plant needs, staffing levels, financial support, service to the academic community, adoption of new technology and policies affecting the campus academic environment.

### **Program Creation and Reorganization Review Committee**

Chair: Michael Grillo

- 1.) Follow up the processing of all academic programs that went through a suspension process but that have not yet been formally eliminated or reconstituted in another form. Document the findings on the web.
- 2.) Facilitate interdisciplinary program development as appropriate.
- 3.) Track and assess proposals for undergraduate and graduate certificate academic program proposals.
- 4.) Assess e-learning programs potentially affecting existing academic programs
- 5.) General: Receive and review proposals for the creation, elimination and reorganization of academic programs and present recommendations to the faculty senate for approval.

### **Research and Scholarship**

Chair: Robert Gundersen

- 1.) Support expanded faculty Peer Mentoring for research and scholarship
- 2.) Work with the *Office of Research and Sponsored Programs* and the *University Research Council* to assess progress on the *Strategic Implementation Plan for Enhancement of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity* (Jan 2012) with due consideration to the comments made in *Faculty Responses to the UMaine Strategic Implementation Plan for Enhancement of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity* (150 faculty survey responses, April 2012) (See <http://umaine.edu/facultysenate/documents/>).
- 3.) General: Review and make recommendations to the Senate on matters relating to research including research priorities, research funds, patents, the protection of human and animal subjects, and research safety.

### **Service and Outreach**

Co-Chairs: Emmanuel Boss and Claire Sullivan

- 1.) Document or develop service learning opportunities for undergrad and grad students with communities, non-profits, companies and agencies (e.g. implementation is typically at the academic department level)
- 2.) Explore options for better highlighting faculty service to disciplines or professions
- 3.) Keep the campus informed about criteria needed to attain or retain campus stature or credentials with external audiences, e.g. Carnegie Classification, and make suggestions to retain or achieve
- 4.) General: Review and make recommendations to the Senate regarding service and outreach issues and opportunities that affect the university and its communities.

### **University Environment**

Co-Chairs: Andrew Reeve and Michael Scott

- 1.) Pursue means for achieving better interdisciplinary campus experiences and academic programs for students without undercutting core programs
- 2.) Pursue physical and technology improvements for classrooms
- 3.) Pursue electronic teaching, research and communication infrastructure improvements in consultation with the IT Ad Hoc Committee
- 4.) General: Review and make recommendations to the Senate in matters relating to the academic and physical environments of the University including cultural programs, energy and resource conservation, sustainability, free speech and assembly, athletics, public relations, residential life, safety, facilities, and conduct.

### **Ad Hoc IT Advisory Committee**

Co-Chairs: Martha Novy-Broderick and Michael Scott

- 1.) Pursue further co-ordination of the various IT groups on campus and across System

- 2.) Work with the Academic Affairs Committee on how academic needs might better drive development of the technologies required for various modes of E-Learning
- 3.) Pursue electronic teaching, research and communication infrastructure improvements in consultation with the Environment Committee
- 4.) Assess progress on the *The University of Maine Information Technology Strategic Plan* (Final Draft 23 Feb 2012) with due consideration to the comments made in *Faculty Responses to the UMaine Information Technology Strategic Plan* (127 faculty survey responses, April 2012) (See <http://umaine.edu/facultysenate/documents/>).