

PPC meeting April 20, 2022

Attending: Laura Atchley, Meg Cotter-Lynch (chair), Steve Csaki, William Fridley, Ashley Hampton, Doug Wood,

Absent: Chaehyun Lee, Matthew Sparacio

Meeting called to order at 3:06pm, adjourned at 3:35pm.

- I. The committee discussed the request from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to propose an amendment to APPM, in section 7.1.6, to codify the campus policy regarding political candidates speaking on campus. Text of the proposed amendment, based upon the email from Dr. Newsom on April 4, 2022. This motion was made by Dr. Csaki, seconded by Dr. Atchley, and passed unanimously; the proposal will be brought to the full senate on April 27.
- II. In our February meeting, the committee expressed concern about variation in the practice for using academic coaches in departments across campus. At the request of the committee, Chair Cotter-Lynch sent an email to Dean Blackwood in March asking for clarification of policy and practice. Dean Blackwood's response, on April 12, is included below. From the experience of the committee members present, it is clear that the procedures described by Dean Blackwood are not currently uniformly applied. The committee expressed appreciation that work has begun on formalizing policy on this matter, and would like to ensure that this proposed policy is submitted to the Senate for review, hopefully early in the fall semester, and is enacted in a timely manner. Therefore, the committee requests that the Faculty Senate as a whole authorize the Faculty Senate Chair to write to Dean Blackwood and VP Golden, thanking them for their work on formalizing policy on this matter, and formally requesting that a proposed policy be submitted to the senate for review in August or September 2022. This motion was made by Dr. Wood, seconded by Dr. Hampton, and passed unanimously.
- III. Dr. Cotter-Lynch expressed appreciation to the committee for all of their work this year. Many important tasks were accomplished; remaining committee charges will be taken up next year. Dr. Fridley expressed appreciation to Dr. Cotter-Lynch for taking up the position of chair, and Dr. Cotter-Lynch thanked Dr. Fridley for his many years of service chairing the committee.

Proposed addition to APPM, 7.1.6:

The process for announcements about political candidates formally speaking on campus will be as follows:

- *Political candidates should be invited to campus and sponsored by recognized and registered student organizations, with advance notification to the President's Office to assist in coordination of space requirements to avoid disruptions to classroom and academic activities as well as provide adequate security. Announcements about the speaking event will clearly identify the student organization that is organizing and supporting the event.*

- *Student organizations inviting candidates will be responsible for publicizing the event. At the request of student organizations, the President's office will ~~continue to~~ communicate these events' occurrence, ~~but~~ with ~~greater~~ specificity about the inviting party, and without repeating language provided by the campaign.*

- *Recognized and registered student organizations, their use of facilities and campus posting for such events, are subject to the policies in The Student Organization Handbook.*

- *These events, student organizations, and all members of the University Community are subject to the University's Free Expression Policy <https://www.se.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Campus-Free-Expression-Policy-2.pdf>*

Email received from Dean Blackwood:

From: [Jeremy B. Blackwood](#)

Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 3:28 PM

To: [Margaret Cotter-Lynch](#)

Subject: RE: PPC request: policy/practice re: use of academic coaches

Greetings!

I trust that you are well. Please accept my apology for the delay. I feel as though I have not had an open minute since my students' recitals the week of March 28.

Could you please send me at least one of the following, but ideally both:

- 1) A description of the current university policy regarding the use of academic coaches in online courses – specifically, at what enrollment level are coaches made available to faculty? Must faculty specifically request a coach, or is one proactively offered at a certain enrollment level? Are faculty who choose not to have coaches then offered extra compensation for taking on larger courses by themselves?

When I assumed the role of Dean of Graduate Studies, 47 was the enrollment level that I was given for faculty to be able to request Academic Coaches through Instructional Connections. To my knowledge, this was a number that was discussed between former Vice Presidents Tim Boatmun and Bryon Clark. I was never given a formal description – just notes that I took when I assumed the new role.

It was told to me that faculty must request a coach. All the program coordinators/chairs in the degree program areas supported by AP are aware of the opportunities from Instructional Connections. When I review enrollment numbers, I will and have asked Chairs about the faculty member and whether they wish to consider a coach. Yes, I was informed by Dr. Boatmun that faculty who do not use a coach receive extra compensation.

- 2) A description of the current university practice regarding the use of academic coaches, including the questions above.

I have worked up a starting document for discussions to submit to the new policy on policies protocols. Vice President Golden asked me to hold on to it until it was determined that the President would sign the contract. Vice President has the

document, so I will consult with her as to when we can submit it to the new policy structure. Since it is a working document and is still being vetted by Vice President Golden, I can't share it at this time.

These questions arise out of differing reports from faculty in different departments regarding the assignment of coaches and supplemental pay; we would like to determine if a regularization or clarification of policy is necessary, or whether discrepancies result from an inconsistent adherence to existing policy across departments.

You will hear that there are some differences in the number of students in a section with a coach. I was told that there was flexibility in the assignments when there was one instructor who has an overload of courses that they are teaching. The custom has been to look at the total number of students across all the sections. While it will look as though the professor has a coach for fewer students in a section, the coach is provided to give a modicum of relief to the professor of record. There have been a few coordinators/chairs that requested fewer students (35) for sections due to the substantial amount of work, assignments required of the professor of record to review in the course. This is explained a bit more in detail in the document that I gave to Vice President Golden.

As to the extra pay, the pay is the same for all the instructors who do not use a coach – \$23.50 per student. I am aware of one instance when a Professor of Record was given false information by a Department Chair, so the faculty member was paid the Instructional Connections rate of \$47.00 per student.

I hope this helps. Let me know if you need any other information or clarification. Once Vice President Golden and I can breathe, we will get the document to policy on policies.

Have a wonderful evening!

Take care,

Jeremy