Academic Standards Council
Meeting of November 16, 2010, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon
Valley Road Building, Room 3065

Present: L. Gazzillo Diaz, M. Ellis, R. Kearney, F. Li, S. Mankiw, I. Olaye, K. Vassilev

Absent: H. Maratouk, E. Stroppel

1) Agenda - The Council approved the agenda.

2) Minutes of October 26, 2010 Meeting – The Council approved the minutes of the October 26, 2010 meeting.

3) Discussion of Standing/Additional Charges with Senate Vice-Chair Ellis – The Council welcomed Senate Vice-Chair Ellis for a discussion of some of the Council's charges for the year, in order to obtain clarification. The following is a summary of these discussions:

- Standing Charge #3: Liaise with university officials responsible for all academic policy matters to conduct an ongoing review of their effectiveness. – The Council inquired about the intended scope of this charge, which is potentially quite broad, as well as the measures that might be used to evaluate effectiveness. Vice-Chair Ellis explained that this charge was not intended to place an undue burden on the Council nor to function as a substitute for policy effectiveness assessment methods already in use in the respective academic offices. The Council should develop a framework for this periodic liaison role this year.

- Additional Charge #5: Identify resources for online instruction. – The Council inquired about this charge, as this seems to be the principal responsibility of IRT staff who provide faculty and student Blackboard support and training. Vice-Chair Ellis explained the intent of this charge was to provide resources for online writing help for students, useful instructions, tutoring and academic support resources, including online tutorials. This is especially important for online students who are unable to attend campus. Ellis indicated online pedagogy has to be developed so the quality of teaching can be comparable, and some faculty may need support and resources to come closer to equivalence with in-class instruction, moving beyond the textbook and toward student engagement in the online environment.

- Additional Charge #6: Review incomplete grade policy. – The Council requested a clarification of this charge. Vice-Chair Ellis explained that the current policy presents an "equity" issue in that students who receive incompletes in the fall have a much shorter time to complete their course requirements than students who receive incompletes in the spring. There are a number of practical issues here, some of which pertain to faculty (especially adjunct faculty) contracts rather than the calendar itself. There is also a question of whether faculty are clear about the circumstances under which an incomplete grade can be given, and when it should not be given. The Council began an initial

discussion of this matter, with a suggestion that a new policy consistent across semesters should be developed (e.g., a deadline keyed to the end of the semester in which an incomplete is assigned rather than one keyed to when the subsequent semester begins).

4) Adjournment –The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kearney