

San Diego Miramar College
Academic Standards Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2010, 12:30 – 1:30
A-201

Present: Reginald Boyd; Kandice Brandt; Patricia Flower; Bob Fritsch; Thu Nguyen;
Duane Short

1) Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 pm.

2) Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved with one addition under “New Business”.

3) Adjudication of student petitions

a) Substitution of Physical Education requirement (petition reference # 988)

The committee reviewed the petition and documentation provided as well as the catalog descriptions of the Physical Education graduation requirement and the course being proposed for substitution (PHYE 241). The committee determined that PHYE 241 did not have an activity component and therefore did not meet the definition of an “activity course”. The committee then discussed other options the student had for completing this requirement, including open entry / open exit and distance learning physical education activity course options.

Disapproved

b) Waiver of continuous enrollment requirement for catalog rights (petition reference # 533)

R. Boyd presented the petition and circumstances on behalf of the student, who currently resides out of state. The committee determined that the student had taken coursework to fulfill the degree requirements for the student’s original catalog year, the student moved out of state for employment, the student had continued to pursue Miramar’s degree requirements at alternate institutions while out of California, and the student was unable to maintain catalog rights to the original catalog as per the continuous enrollment requirement because of his presence out of state. The committee discussed the extenuating circumstances presented in the petition as well as the student’s academic history, graduation intentions, and continuous and ongoing interaction with Miramar staff in regards to the completion of his degree.

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to waive the continuous enrollment requirement for calendar years 2008, 2009, and 2010. This would

require the student to complete all coursework during calendar year 2010 in order to graduate under the student's original catalog year.

Approved

4) Old Business – No items

5) New Business

a) CSU system acceptance of credit from external exams

D. Short reported that the CSU system was in the process of revising its policy regarding acceptance of general education and transferable unit credit from external exams such as AP, IB, and CLEP. He indicated that once the CSU policy was in effect, the Academic Senate would be asked if Miramar supported aligning the district's acceptance of credit from these sources with the CSU system.

b) AP credit in fulfillment of major requirements

T. Nguyen reported that current practice was to submit a petition for the use of AP credit to meet major course requirements, because AP credit does not carry a letter grade. D. Short asserted that this practice should not be followed in cases where the discipline faculties at the SDCCD colleges have already agreed to accept AP credit towards major course requirements. Those cases are listed in the catalog, which the college is legally obligated to honor. D. Short also pointed out that the catalog requirement for letter grades specifically refers to courses; not exams or other sources of credit (such as credit-by-exam) that do not carry the option of a letter grade. T. Nguyen indicated that the Social and Behavioral Sciences department appeared to disagree with the previous decision to award PSYC 101 course credit for the major for successful completion of the Psychology AP test. The committee discussed these points.

After discussion, R. Boyd and T. Nguyen agreed to revisit the practice of submitting petitions for the use of AP credit to meet major course requirements in cases where that decision has already been made by the discipline faculties and published in the catalog. D. Short agreed to contact the chair of the Social and Behavioral Sciences department to ask if the department would like to initiate a districtwide re-review of the Psychology AP exam.

6) Standing Reports

a) Evaluators

T. Nguyen and R. Boyd reported that they would attend a meeting that week to discuss the feasibility of the evaluators moving from the colleges to the district central office. The committee discussed the impact that change would have on the college's students, faculty, administration, and staff, all of whom the evaluators work closely with on a daily basis. The committee also discussed the impact such a move would have on the college's shared governance structure and accreditation standards. After discussion, the committee agreed that such a move would have a significant widespread negative impact on the college. D. Short agreed to bring this issue through the shared governance structure.

- b) Articulation Officer – No report
- 7) Roundtable – No items
- 8) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 pm.