

**Meeting of the Villanova University
Academic Policy Committee**

Wednesday, January 24, 2018
3:00-4:00 PM
Fedigan Room (SAC 400)

Present

Sepideh Cheheltani, Gordon Coonfield, Christopher Kilby (chair), Brian King, Adele Lindenmeyr, Eric Lomazoff, Peggy Lyons, Kimberly Marucci, Christine Palus, Michael Posner, Rees Rankin, Joseph Schick, Marguerite Schlag, Andrea Welker, Craig Wheeland, Tina Yang

Absent

Sherry Bowen (on leave), Danai Chasaki, Jennifer Dixon (NIA), Marylu Hill (NIA), Shelly Howton (on leave), Wen Mao (NIA), Elizabeth Petit de Mange (NIA), Dennis Wykoff (on leave)
[NIA=Notified in Advance]

Administrative Items

- 1) Tina Yang volunteered to take note for the minutes.
- 2) Minutes from 11/2/2017 approved unanimously.

New Business

3) Villanova Integrated Academic (VIA) Proposal

Randy Weistein (Associate Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning) provided updates regarding cross-college programs. APC discussed the structure of these cross-college programs and courses that aim to offer a Villanova Integrated academic (VIA) experience. The programs and courses are piloted under the supervision of a committee of faculty (the VIA Faculty Committee). The course designation will be similar to the Honors Program, namely administratively housed within the Provost's office and thus independent of colleges/departments. These courses count as free electives, open to all students including first year students. Each degree program can decide by their own processes whether such courses count more than as free electives. So far, there is no VIA proposal for a graduate course.

As the courses will be offered and funded by the Provost Office, APC discussed the potential effect of these programs on accreditation, particularly if in the future the VIA courses gain popularity and a larger number are offered. Craig Wheeland (Vice Provost for Academics) stated he did not see a potential for significant effect. APC also discussed the appropriateness of one course title—"American Statesmanship"—that may lead students to question why the course does not count toward certain majors or minors.

Dr. Weistein stated that the Office of AVP and the VIA Faculty Committee have polled students' interests regarding the VIA courses. Based on student feedback groups including

ICE and real estate students, there appeared to be a demand for cross-college courses. These students also indicated that they wanted some forms of certification for completing the sequence of courses.

APC discussed potential drawbacks of adding 1.5-credit courses as opposed to three-credit courses. Most of the VIA courses are 1.5 credits. Students may overload on a larger number of 1 or 1.5 credit courses, and become distracted and less dedicated to mastering course materials than if they have taken fewer but 3-credit courses.

Dr. Weinstein stated that these programs/courses will change over time based upon faculty and student feedback and faculty assessment. There is no guarantee that they will continue to be offered.

Old Business

4) Academic Experience Subcommittee

The APC Chair will schedule a future subcommittee meeting to identify the new Chair of the subcommittee to replace Dennis Wykoff, who is on sabbatical leave this semester.

5) Academic Integrity Violation (AIV) Subcommittee

Andrea Welker (chair) provided updates, including that the plan to have Associate Deans provide updates at every BAAD committee meeting has been implemented. This was implemented as a low-cost/low-tech solution to ensure that the process was being brought to completion by the various colleges. Academic Integrity is now a standing item on the BAAD committee agenda and the Associate and Assistant Deans are coming with updates and it also places these violations on the Provost's radar. Changes in academic integrity violations policy that were approved by APC last fall must be implemented by modifying the Faculty Handbook, the purview of the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee (FRRC). Dr. Wheeland indicated FRRC had just discussed the changes proposed by APC and that some additional changes and edits were being considered. These include a policy to direct communications from a student's parent or guardian to the relevant associate dean (rather than the faculty member) and language to articulate faculty discretion in assigning a grade penalty when there is an academic integrity violation. APC input into this process will be via email and should be completed prior to the next APC meeting.

6) Diversity & Inclusion Subcommittee

The subcommittee's first scheduled meeting of the semester is on 1/25/2018.

7) Online CATS Subcommittee

Michael Posner (chair) suggested that APC expand the subcommittee mandate beyond monitoring the transition to online CATS to include issues such as how to administer CATS (e.g., in class or not), removing underutilized questions, and development of tools to track individual faculty's CATS over time and to automate integration of CATS summaries into other reporting systems (e.g., Activity Insight).

APC members expressed concerns that so far OPIR has not provided a detailed analysis of the online CATS "pilot" in Spring 2017 nor updates regarding the pilot of the new diversity and inclusion questions added to some CATS in Fall 2017. Brian King noted that there was no notification from OPIR informing students that their classes had been randomly

selected to participate in the Fall 2017 pilot of diversity and inclusion questions. At least some students assumed their classes/professors were flagged for potential violations.

Due to time limitations, additional discussion was deferred to the next APC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 PM.

Drafted from Tina Yang's excellent notes. Thank you!