

Academic Quality Committee Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024, via Zoom

Attendees: Patricia Todd, Sara McCaslin, Sarah Herbert, Tracy Jenkins, Ru Wu (G), Ron Rhoades (G), Christopher Jensen (G), Jennifer Hammonds (G), Beth Laves (G)

Absent: Dan Strunk, Andrea Jenkins, Ngoc Nguyen

Meeting called to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Dr. Patricia Todd at 3:45 PM with a quorum established.

Minutes Approval: The minutes from the previous meeting on 2/20/2024 were approved following a motion by Sara McCaslin and a second by Tracy Jenkins, with unanimous approval.

New Business:

A motion was raised by Sara McCaslin and seconded by Tracy Jenkins to review the policy from Academic Affairs. Beth Laves and Jennifer Hammonds presented updates on the *Engagement Requirements for Hour of Credit* policy, incorporating "Zero Credit" courses. These updates aligned with ongoing university practices, necessitated by the lack of revisions to the policy since 2/1/1977. After some discussion, Tracy Jenkins moved to approve the revisions, seconded by Sarah Caslin, with unanimous approval.

Old Business:

Dr. Ron Rhoades presented recommendations via PowerPoint to increase classroom sizes, aiming to bolster enrollment, faculty salaries, and teacher recruitment amidst potential fiscal challenges. Dr. Rhoades emphasized preparedness for an anticipated enrollment decline over the next decade. Dr. Todd shared research findings, indicating alignment with Dr. Rhoades' proposals which are already underway at the university.

Discussion:

Dr. Caslin highlighted efficacy reviews conducted during the CAPE process which addressed inefficiencies and redundancies at WKU. Dr. Jenkins expressed concerns from the nursing program's perspective regarding large classroom sizes and proposed incentives for instructors. Dr. Rhoades acknowledged uncertainties but stressed forward-thinking for WKU's future.

Suggestions included consulting the Provost on recruitment, salaries, and enrollment strategies, currently underway at WKU with involvement from Kirk Atkinson and other committees to amplify faculty senate representation. Jennifer Hammonds proposed engaging the faculty and staff regents.

Dr. Todd undertook coordination with relevant committees to address these concerns.

Motion to Adjourn: The meeting concluded at 4:53 p.m. with Tracy Jenkins motioning to adjourn, seconded by Sara Caslin, with unanimous agreement.

Next Meeting: The date for the next meeting is April 16, 3:45 pm via Zoom.