

## Academic Policies Committee

### Minutes

19 April 2018

Minutes approved: 27 September 2018

**In Attendance:** Scott Gordon, Nancy Penceo, Myrna Gantner, Emily Hipchen, Agnieszka Chwialkowska, Donna Haley, Tyler Petty, Jessica Sullivan, Ashley Lewis, Patrick Hadley, Jean Cook, Cheryl Brown, Emily McKendry-Smith

The meeting began at 2:07 PM.

- I. Minutes
  - a. The minutes from the February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting were approved without correction.
  - b. The minutes from the November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting were approved without correction.
  
- II. Policy on how UWG uses Accuplacer for Admissions
  - a. Dr. Gantner explained that the Accuplacer policy is being adjusted at the USG level; Accuplacer will be used as a placement exam, not an admissions criteria. This is related to the “Momentum Year” initiative that all Georgia institutions are required to implement.
    - i. Depending on a students’ SAT/ACT/Accuplacer scores, the student may be required to take a co-requisite class Math or English class or may be exempt from the co-requisite.
    - ii. This is related to the co-requisites for ENGL 1101 and MATH 1111 that have been previously passed by the Faculty Senate.
    - iii. The Accuplacer policy was prepared using first-year admissions scores for the last 3 years and conducting a trend analysis of how well students performed in ENGL 1101 and MATH 1111.
  - b. Discussion of how these policies would be impacted if student scores increase in the future.
  - c. Discussion of who will approve exemptions from co-requisite courses.
  - d. Discussion that students applying to UWG will still need to pay the fee for the Accuplacer test.
  - e. The issue was raised that if UWG no longer uses Accuplacer as an admissions criteria, there will no longer be an admissions requirement for non-traditional students.
    - i. A question was raised that if students score poorly and are admitted to the university, will they be set up for success?

- ii. In the past, if students took Accuplacer and did not meet a minimum score, they would be referred to WG Tech or Georgia Highlands.
    - f. A question was raised regarding if students will need to take the Accuplacer exam prior to being admitted to UWG or not.
      - i. The committee contacted Mr. Justin Barlow from Admissions (via speakerphone) to clarify this issue.
      - ii. When students take the Accuplacer exam has not been structured yet. Students may take the exam as part of orientation or advising. If there is high demand to take the exam early, there are also opportunities for students to take the exam in a testing center.
      - iii. Students will know that they need to take the Accuplacer exam because it will be indicated in their conversations with Admissions and admissions letter.
      - iv. In response to the issue raised about student success, Mr. Barlow noted that there is a 95% pass rate on the English and Reading sections of Accuplacer. The math rate is lower. Students will still be required to pass College Algebra, the same as before this change.
    - g. A question was raised on how this policy will compare to those of other institutions.
      - i. Mr. Barlow noted that UWG is the only institution in our tier that did not have learning support. With this policy, UWG will look very similar to other institutions in our tier.
    - h. A question was asked about the number of students this will affect.
      - i. Mr. Barlow explained that most adults taking the Accuplacer exam do not pass math; there is a high percentage of need among adults. Knowing that they needed to pass the Accuplacer exam created a phobia and deterred people from applying to UWG. However, it is difficult to estimate the number of people who will be affected because we are offering it late in the cycle. Most adults will likely need math support. This is congruent with the BOR's directive to focus on adult learning.
    - i. Emily McKendry-Smith moved to endorse the changes to the Accuplacer policy. This motion was seconded by Jessica Sullivan and the committee unanimously moved to endorse the policy.
- III. Military Withdrawal Policy
  - a. Emily McKendry-Smith explained the problems presented by the current military withdrawal policy.
    - i. The current policy states that students are eligible for a military withdrawal if they are called to active duty or deployed during the term. However, there may be other situations where a students' military status is changed in a way that necessitates withdrawing from courses.

- ii. The current policy states that students must submit copies of their official orders to be able to withdraw. However, military students may be informed of and experience changes in their status before official orders are issued.
  - b. Donna Haley noted that the current military withdrawal policy has been in place since she has been at UWG.
  - c. The committee discussed how changing the military withdrawal policy would impact eCore and eCampus.
- IV. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.