

Instruction and Research Committee

Final Report

2016-2017

Members:

M. Scott Goodman, Chair (Chemistry Dept. Chair)

L. Anselmi (Anthropology), K. Boos (Prof. Staff.), C. Burnett (Int'l. Center for Studies in Creativity.), C. Cardina (Health, Nutrition/Dietetics), B. Christy (Dean-SAH, Admin. Liaison), E. Harvey (Butler Library), J. Marren (Communication), A. Nicholls (Hist. & Soc. Studies Ed.), A. Patti (Except. Ed.), M. Pereira (Prof. Staff), H. Shandomo (Elem. Ed. & Reading), A. Shephard (Fash./Textile Tech.), M. Warford (Mod./Class. Languages), M. Langille (Student)

Charge: *The committee on Instruction and Research shall concern itself with those aspects of policy that relate to:*

- *The improvement of instruction and the development of services and resources necessary to carry out or enhance this function;*
- *The use of time and resources (e.g., scheduling, registration, and the college calendar);*
- *Evaluating of student progress and teaching effectiveness;*
- *Grading, withdrawal from courses, experimental and special instructional methods, innovative practices, and maintenance of quality education; and,*
- *The stimulation and support of research, scholarship, and creativity*

Name of Chair Submitting Report: M. Scott Goodman

Anticipated Vacancies in 2017-2018: 4 faculty, 1 student, and 1 librarian have terms expiring at the end of 2017. 3 of the faculty members and the librarian with expiring terms agreed to serve only a 1-year term at the beginning of this year so that committee vacancies would not all occur simultaneously every-other-year.

Annual Report:

The I&R Committee had 6 face-to-face meetings and several electronic discussions. The following business was conducted:

1. A Course Auditing Policy revision was reviewed. The committee noted many deficiencies in the existing policy and the proposed revision and sent these concerns to the Standards for Students committee.

2. The Committee completed its review of the Academic Misconduct Policy (DOPS VIII:04:00). A new version of the existing policy was written, revised with the help of Standards for Students, and passed by the Senate in April. A second part of the motion called on the administration to publicize the policy more effectively to faculty and students.
3. I&R completed deliberations on the Graduate Thesis/Project Continuation policy. A revised policy was written with the major change being that the delay between registering for a graduate capstone and starting to register for 722 (if the work is not completed) was reduced from 2 years to 2 semesters. The policy revision was vetted through the Graduate School and their suggestions were included. The revised version of the policy is being considered by the Senate in May.
4. The recently revised Academic Calendar Construction Guidelines (DOPS 1:19:00) were used to create a new 2017-2018 academic calendar that eliminates Veteran’s Day, shortens President’s Day weekend, but lengthens Fall Break. The committee has recommended that the Summer ES and J-term sessions be assessed and their scheduling be carefully considered.
5. Possible agenda items 2017-2018:
 - a. Academic Misconduct. The academic integrity statement in the Course Procedures and Grading Policy (DOPS I:16:00) and the “other” Academic Misconduct Policy (DOPS 1:17:03) should be reviewed as requested by several senators. Specifically, should a statement on academic integrity be required in all syllabi? Is the Academic Misconduct 1:17:03 the correct policy to link to from 1:16:00, or rather should it be the student Academic Misconduct Policy (DOPS VIII:04:00)? The textual similarity detection (e.g. Turnitin) provisions in 1:17:03 should also be reviewed.
 - b. Undergraduate Assistants. How are undergraduates being used as teaching assistants and should there be guidelines?