SD 21-22
DEFINING AN ACADEMIC EMERGENCY

FOR VOTE – 3/21/22

Educational Policy Committee
University Policy Resources Committee

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SD 21-22

Develop a systemwide policy around academic emergencies that

- Is not limited to health emergencies (includes natural disasters, labour emergencies)

- recognizes shared governance norms are still valuable in times of emergency, including at regional campuses and Purdue Global

- Emphasizes transparency in who makes what changes

  - "Consultation" should include at minimum MAPSAC chair, CSSAC chair, University Senate chair

- Time-bounds a declaration so emergency conditions sunset out without a re-declaration

- Policy should come back to the University Senate and regional, Global Senates before going to Executive Policy Review Group

- No changes to SD since presentation

Concerns raised at February's meeting, and subsequently

- How much specificity one could bring to an "academic emergency" policy?

    - We are not suggesting developing a policy like the University of Oregon policy. We are mainly advocating for modifying Policy IV.A.8 in light of lessons learned.

        - Make visible our commitment to shared governance.

        - Specify who "academic leadership" is at PWL and "subject matter experts" are at PNW, PFW, IUPUI, inclusive of commitment to shared governance

Concerns raised at February's meeting, and subsequently

- Would making the policy more specific reduce its nimbleness in times of crisis?

    - No. AAUP reports demonstrate reasonable possibility and expectation to keep to spirit of shared governance even in times of turmoil (like Hurricane Katrina).

Concerns raised at February's meeting, and subsequently

- Is this really needed? We engaged with many different stakeholder groups, including EPC, and student government, in large scale academic decisions relating to COVID.

  - Great! It took some time to get there, though.

  - Integrated Emergency Management Plan is reviewed and revised annually to incorporate in lessons learned.

  - Other emergency procedures are codified in SOPs but we haven't done this yet for academic changes we made in COVID.

  - Let's operationalize this through policy so we aren't beginning from scratch next time.

Concerns raised at February's meeting, and subsequently

- Adverse weather conditions policy might provide another model.

  - Seems comparatively small scale given what we're considering.

  - Proposed changes would not change its purview.

- We followed the System-Wide Policy Development Process to develop Policy IV.A.8 in July 2020 and then Dec 2020. The Senate Chair was involved.

  - Yes. No quibble here.

  - This SD is being proactive rather than reactive.

    - We know more now than we did in July 2020.

    - We can see a bigger need than just the pandemic.

Other questions or concerns?

Otherwise, please vote yes on SD 21-22.

EXTRA SLIDES

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COVID showed us a grave need

We were building the plane as we flew it

- Suspension of normal academic operations

- Switch mode of instruction over spring break to online instruction with no extension of spring break

- Changes to the academic calendar – dropping fall break, moving to online instruction after Thanksgiving

- Changes to educational policy – pass/no pass, withdraw/drop dates, academic probation

- Automatic tenure clock extensions for one year (only)

- Suspension of normal teaching evaluations for a term

- Changed expectations acknowledging working while caregiving

- Suspension of S-19 of instructional intellectual property on courseware and online modules for materials moved online due to COVID (and later quietly retracted)

- ....

Existing relevant policies and plans

- Integrated Emergency Management Plan

    - https://www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergency-preparedness/emergency-plans/iemp.php

    - Operation of campus facilities if necessitated by emergencies "initiated by natural and human-caused disaster."

    - Reviewed annually

    - Managed by Environmental Health & Public Safety Office (Carol Shelby, Director)

Existing relevant policies and plans

- Communicable Disease Emergencies and Pandemics (Policy IV.A.8)

  - Developed during COVID – July 2020, permanent in December 2020

  - Focused on public health emergencies only

  - Delegates academic decisions:

    - at PWL to the Provost in consultation with "other University Officers and academic leadership" (latter undefined)

    - At regional campuses to chancellors and "university designated subject matter advisors"

    - No mention of Purdue Global, even though they have a Senate, academic leadership, and "subject matter experts"

These policies do not cover our needs

- Integrated Emergency Management Plan

    - Well-developed, process for annual reassessment and revision, clear delegation of authority based on areas of responsibility

    - But focused on physical facilities

- Communicable Disease Emergencies and Pandemics (Policy IV.A.8)

    - Focused on health emergencies only

    - Delegation of authority outside of areas of responsibility on academic matters despite norms of shared governance still applying "in exigent times as in more tranquil times"

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Calling for a policy, rather than writing the policy

- https://www.purdue.edu/policies/process.html

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