

Academic Affairs Committee  
Minutes for January 21, 2014  
Approved February 18, 2014

Members present: Elizabeth Campbell, Roger Cavallo, Dan Jones, Patricia Murphy, Linda Weber; Daryl Lee, John Lasher, Jennifer Phelan.

Visitors present: Robert Geer, President; William Durgin, Provost; Mary Krenitsky-Perrone

1. President Robert Geer and Provost William Durgin discussed proposed changes to the academic schedule and requested input from individual members of the committee. The two proposed changes were described as follows. The first is to create “protected time” in the evenings for student activities (e.g. athletics, performing arts, clubs) by limiting the number of classes offered in the evening. The goal would be to cultivate more student life on campus as the institution moved towards becoming more residentially-focused. The second is to revise the course schedule in order to utilize Friday’s more fully.

Dr. Durgin emphasized that changes would be made carefully, particularly in order to ensure that any changes would not negatively affect enrollment. Dr. Geer emphasized that the institution would take a phased approach in implementing changes.

Individual members of the committee provided feedback on the proposed changes. The committee as whole did not take any action on the proposal.

2. The committee approved the minutes of the December 18, 2013 meeting.
3. The committee reviewed the revised draft policy for the SUNYIT transfer grade policy and approved it by a vote of 5-0-0. The committee agreed that the chair would update the supporting materials accompanying the motion and forward it to the Faculty Assembly for discussion and consideration.
4. The committee discussed the outlines for a policy governing the awarding of posthumous degrees. The committee directed the chair to draft the language of a policy that incorporated the following aspects:
  - a. Requests for the awarding of a posthumous degree are to be referred to the Academic Affairs committee to be considered on a case-by-case basis.
  - b. To be eligible, a student must have established residency at both the institution and within the program within which the student was majoring.
  - c. The program or department faculty will review the request and make a recommendation as to the suitability of awarding the degree.

- d. The committee recommends that the family of the deceased be consulted by the appropriate SUNYIT representative in order to determine the family's wishes with regards to how to recognize the awarding of the posthumous degree.

The committee approved in principle the above outline for a policy by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. The committee reviewed its list of agenda items in order to reassess priorities to address for the Spring 2014 semester. There was consensus that the two major items of committee interest remained formulating an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant policy and examining the state of grade inflation. The committee decided to focus on the TA policy first with the understanding that it would address other items as needs arise.
6. Meeting adjourned.