

APC Report: March 18, 2022

At its March 14th meeting, APC discussed the following issues:

- Teaching evaluation revision
- Quantitative Economics and Econometrics B.S. proposal
- Standardizing language in the catalog: “major,” “minor,” and “concentration”
- Cybersecurity minor
- Dean’s list—effect of a course withdrawal

Teaching evaluations. The sub-committee on evaluations completed most of its work and submitted recommendations for APC’s consideration. Those recommendations consist of four parts: Directions to students; Evaluation Items; Best Practices for faculty in administering evaluations; Best Practices for administrators in interpreting results. The section on Best practices for faculty is still outstanding, so APC discussed and voted on the other elements of the proposal. In developing its recommendations, the sub-committee took into consideration the literature regarding student evaluations, including best practices. The recommendations are attached.

APC voted 11-0 in favor of the recommendations developed thus far. From here, under a schedule set by the Executive Committee, the recommendations will go to the Provost for interim feedback, then to Schools and Colleges for feedback, and then back to APC and the Senate for a final vote in the fall. The section on Best Practices for faculty is still outstanding and will be addressed by APC as soon as it is available.

Committee members suggested that it would be helpful to have a further conversation among faculty and Deans about support for teaching evaluations and teaching improvements. As it stands, SHU could better develop a culture that conceptualizes student evaluations of teaching as one source of feedback among many to enhance teaching effectiveness. The APC suggested that the Executive Committee discuss this with the Provost.

Quantitative Economics and Econometrics proposal. The committee voted by electronic ballot 12-0 to approve the proposal, which is posted along with this report.

Standardizing language in the catalog. The registrar’s office officially only includes “major,” “minor,” and “concentration” on transcripts. Some programs use different terminology in the catalog, especially for concentrations. This creates some confusion for students, faculty advisers looking at degree audits, and others. In addition, standardization will save time and money as the University switches to Degree Works – essentially, every unique feature needs to be explained to the consultants and then they need to build it in the system. The APC recommends to the Senate that it make a recommendation to programs to consider standardizing this language, e.g., to change terms or specify the common term in parentheses

e.g., specialization (“concentration”). The committee voted by electronic ballot 13-0 to approve this recommendation.

Cybersecurity Minor. The Committee is considering a proposal from the Mathematics and Computer Science Department for a Cybersecurity Minor. The committee will vote on the proposal at its next meeting.

Dean’s List. As you may recall, the Senate passed a resolution that a course withdrawal should not disqualify a student from the Dean’s List. The Provost’s response indicated support for the general idea, but pointed out various technical issues and suggested that APC discuss with Enrollment Services. Dr. Reader has undertaken initial discussions. The committee agreed that further conversation with enrollment services would be productive and Dr. Reader and Dr. Moremen volunteered to continue these discussions.

Accordingly, APC submits the following resolutions for the Senate’s consideration:

Resolution: Be it resolved that the attached proposals regarding the content and administration of student evaluations of teaching are approved.

Resolution. Be it resolved that the proposed B.S. Quantitative Economics and Econometrics is approved.

Resolution

Whereas the University primarily uses the terms “major,” “minor,” and “concentration” in the University graduate and undergraduate catalog and the Registrar’s Office uses these terms on student transcripts;

Whereas some programs use different terminology in both catalogs, especially for “concentrations;”

Whereas the use of standard terminology across programs would increase clarity and avoid confusion for students, for faculty conducting degree audits, and for others;

Be it resolved that the Senate recommends that programs consider adopting the common terminology for inclusion in the graduate and undergraduate catalogs, or indicate the common terminology alongside specialized terms where practicable, e.g., “specialization (concentration).”

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Moremen and Peter Reader, Co-Chairs