Minutes for CofC Faculty Committee on Student Affairs and Athletics (SAAC)
November 7, 2018
Conference Room 307 Randolph Hall
2 p.m.- 3p.m.

Present: Allison Sterrett-Krause (Chair, Classics), Bonnie Devet (English), Jay Forsythe (Chemistry), Christy Kollath-Cattano (Health and Human Performance), Henry Xie (Management and Marketing): committee members
Present: Jeri Cabot (Dean of Students/Associate Vice President)—ex officio member
Present: Olivia Laporte (student representative) and Jeffrey Butcher (student representative)

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Sterrett-Krause welcomed the committee, asking all, including the two student representatives, to introduce themselves.

Committee Document Sharing

Dr. Sterrett-Krause asked the committee to decide how to share documents. Should we use Google Dropbox or have a non-credit OAKS course? Dr. Forsythe will look into setting up an OAKS non-credit course and will make sure the two student representatives have access to it as well.

Other Projects

A) Update on Student Code of Conduct: Jeri Cabot explained that in 2017 the Code was reviewed by a student/faculty committee. The work was then shared with the Student Government Association, the Graduate Student Association, the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee, the Provost, the Executive Team, the Equal Opportunity Employment Office, and four focus groups of students. Next, the Code was sent back to the Executive Committee, which approved it. Unlike the Honor Code, the Student Code of Conduct has no academic sanctions; the sanctions govern non-academic behavior. Procedures in the Student Code of Conduct also apply to Honor Code violations. The revised code, which tries to use less legal-sounding language, identifies and groups its procedures under the values of the College itself. The campus will be alerted about the new code, with the goal of putting it up on the Web page. It goes into effect in January 2019.

B) Communicating with Faculty about Campus Resources for Students: Jeri Cabot and Dr. Sterrett-Krause both asked the committee to “mull over” ways that faculty can learn about all the resources available to assist students. Dr. Cabot reported that Student Affairs has a list of resources, but the office would like to create a tutorial to help faculty. Dr. Sterrett-Krause said SAAC would work on this topic in the spring.

C) Student Grievances: Dr. Sterrett-Krause reported that, so far, there are none for SAAC to handle.

D) Alexander Chambliss Connelly Award: Dr. Sterrett-Krause said SAAC would solicit nominations in the spring, about midterms.

Honor Code Sanctions Review
Dr. Sterrett-Krause reported meeting with Mary Bergstrom (Registrar) and Julie Dahl (Associate Registrar) on Oct. 29, 2018. Technically, it is feasible to program the XX-grade into Banner.

However, Dr. Sterrett-Krause reported the Registrar’s Office had other concerns:

- the Registrar wondered if institutions would ask a great deal of questions about the xx-A (etc.) grade for transfer students. The Committee felt it was not likely.
- the Registrar worried that transfer students and students applying for graduate work elsewhere might be affected more by the xx-grade.
- the Registrar asked if the xx-grade were removed, could the students retroactively be awarded various distinctions (for example, the President’s List of Honors). Jeri Cabot said according to her understanding, these honors are not awarded retroactively.

Student representative Jeffry Butcher stressed that the student’s intention (when violating the Honor Code) should have more weight than the weight of the assignment; also, he stressed that the Registrar’s concerns about transfer students is legitimate.

The SAAC wondered if the Registrar could place a “blanket statement” on the transcript saying the XX-grade does not count or should it be left up to the Departments? Dr. Forsythe said it should be left at the Department level since each Department does it for their courses.

Student Representative Oliver Laporte suggested that it is the job of the Registrar to argue for students, perhaps even having a pamphlet to answer questions about xx-grades. She saw no problem with the xx-grade.

Dr. Sterrett-Krause circulated to the SAAC a copy of the University of South Carolina’s Guide for Academic Responsibility. While Dr. Sterrett-Krause said this document has “better alternatives,” she will call USC to seek information.

Dr. Sterrett-Krause also asked should CofC cap the sanction at xx-B+, not offering xx-A.

SAAC agreed that xx-A should stand as it is, perhaps with a tutorial/module for students who violate the Honor Code, at the discretion of Honor Board. Dr. Bonnie Devet stressed that the goal is to provide flexibility for both students and faculty.

SAAC agreed that the chart showing the Class-2 Serious Violations should be modified slightly: “XX-grade” should read “calculated with assignment as zero”

Going Forward
Dr. Sterrett-Krause will communicate Registrar’s concerns to Academic Standards Committee (Chair Ricard Vinas de Puig, Hispanic Studies). With continued support from Academic Standards, we will advance this proposal to Faculty Senate.
Dr. Sterrett-Krause stated that SAAC wants to bring the new Honor Code Sanctions before the Faculty Senate in December, so there may be another meeting of SAAC in November. If Faculty Senate approves proposal, SAAC (or Senate-designated representatives) will communicate with Registrar about language for xx-notation on transcript key and similar logistical matters.

The meeting ended at 2:50 p.m.